Survey says most women won't vote for Gloria

STORY ON PAGE A2

RP world's 14th most populous country

BAGUIO CITY—The Philippines remains the 14th most populous country in the world but it is expected to rank 12th among the 243 countries as early as next year, World Gazetteer reported on the occasion of World Population Day yesterday.

World Gazetteer, which has the world's most extensive population da-

RP/A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Now, it's 'Mr. Bikini Car Wash'

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Are you ready for this? From the producers of Palarong Pambakla comes yet another

NOW/A21

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Back to Edsa for Copa

Prayer rally scheduled on Monday with Guingona as guest

By Fe Zamora, Carlito Pablo and Volt Contreras

CIVIL society groups are scheduled to assemble at the Edsa Shrine on Monday "to remind the people of the spirit of Edsa" after President Macapagal-Arroyo blasted them for opposing her administration's moves to enlist the services of former allies of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

The groups will also use the occasion to formally welcome into their fold Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., who is resigning as foreign secretary on Friday, three days ahead of July 15 when his resignation takes effect.

Guingona will hold a farewell press conference today, his last day in office as foreign affairs secretary.

"The activity (Mass) is open to all . . . who still believe in the spirit of Edsa," Pastor "Boy" Saycon, secretary general of the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa), said.

Guingona is expected to attend the afternoon Mass.

But Copa intelligence, according to Saycon, indicates that there is an administration plan to hold a parallel rally at the Edsa People Power monument led by the Nationalist Alliance for Democracy. If the intelligence checks out, Saycon said the prayer rally of civil society groups will be postponed to July 22.

"The Vice President wants to spend his extra time—the time that he spent as foreign affairs secretary—to encourage movements in support of new politics," Copa spokesperson Jose "Boy" Montelibano said.

"He sees himself as a mentor. He has offered help in any way, such as providing us headquarters," the Copa spokesperson said.

In a meeting last Monday with prominent members of the Cabinet, Copa and other groups

BACK/A18

PURSUE kidnappers, military style, the President orders PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu at the anti-kidnapping workshop at Camp Crame on Thursday. Which means a virtual search-and-destroy operation.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Military rogues head 2 kidnap syndicates

Task Force 'Pacer' formed

By TJ Burgonio and Carlito Pablo

TWO of the most active kidnap-for-ransom groups are headed by discharged military men, new Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said yesterday.

The disclosure came on the same day President Macapagal-Arroyo announced the formation of a new anti-crime task force, which she said would fight on three major fronts: Kidnapping, illegal drug trafficking and robbery.

"What is important is that it will be a battle, military style," the President said. The new unit will be called the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response, or Pacer.

Ebdane identified the two kidnap gangs as the Bucala and Fajardo groups, and said the gangs were actually composed of smaller groups that operate in Metro Manila.

"What I can say is that we have apprehended some former members, especially those on Awol (absence without leave)," he said.

He added: "There are sub groups under these groups. They are the ones actively operating in Metro Manila with lots of victims."

"We are concentrating on these groups and we'll do something about it."

Ebdane made the disclosure during a break in yesterday's anti-kidnapping workshop in Camp Crame, which sought to identify the 21 active KFR groups.

Aside from the Fajardo and Bucala gangs, Ebdane said the notorious Pentagon group and the relatively new group, Abu Sofia, both of which operate in parts of Mindanao, were among the active gangs.

"For those in Metro Manila, we have not established any foreign link. But of course in the South, the ones operating in Jolo (or) Basilan may have foreign links,"

MILITARY/A20

DUTERTE: Like boss, short-tempered

Duterte hits critics: 'Mga ugok'

DAVAO CITY—Like President, like presidential consultant. Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte yesterday showed he did share something in common with President Macapagal-Arroyo: a short temper. He lashed out at critics of his tough anti-crime stance—but didn't stop there.

"I am brighter than you . . . *mga ugok* (you morons) . . . *matagal na ako dito* (I wasn't born yesterday)," he said without addressing anybody in particular.

DUTERTE/A20

'Swat bigger termites not insects with no sting,' Gloria advised

"SWAT the bigger termites" gnawing at her administration and ignore the "beneficial insects that may buzz loudly but have no sting."

This advice for President Macapagal-Arroyo from administration Sen. Ralph Recto, along with a barrage of criticism from various sectors, was aired yesterday in reaction to the President's tough talk vis-à-vis the complaints of civil society groups regarding her administration's policies, including moves to take in people associated with her ousted predecessor.

Recto said the "bigger termites" were the crime groups and economic saboteurs plaguing the country. He also said the President had reason to be exasperated at the supposed sniping of civil society groups that helped put her in power.

Still, "getting unsolicited advice is one of the hazards of the presidency," the senator pointed out. "What a president should do is sift the grain from the chaff."

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said she found the President's tough talk "unfortunate" because "it smacks of an insecure position."

SWAT/A21

Mike defends entry of Ople, Puno brothers

By Norman Bordadora

THE HUSBAND of President Macapagal-Arroyo came to the defense of the administration's proposed alliance with former officials of the Estrada administration.

Mr. Mike Arroyo, who was in Shanghai to inaugurate the opening of the Philippine consulate, said that the Puno brothers, Ronaldo and Ricardo, and Jaime Policarpio merely wanted to help his wife achieve her goals.

"They are like volunteers who want to help the government. They have not been appointed to any Cabinet position and they are not being paid at all," Mr. Arroyo said. "Some people are just too malicious."

He chided civil society groups like the Council for Philippine Affairs of Pastor "Boy" Saycon for allegedly reading too much into the Puno brothers and Policarpio's decision to help the Macapagal administration.

"I appeal to them not to make conclusions about the decisions of the government based only

MIKE/A18

Saycon on GMA: She has burned her bridges

By TJ Burgonio, Fe B. Zamora and Carlito Pablo

ASKED if the public had seen the end of his relationship with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Pastor "Boy" Saycon said: "It was she who burned the bridges."

He also pledged yesterday not to accept any new post from the administration, saying: "We have crossed the Rubicon."

Saycon, secretary general of the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa) and of late a vocal critic of the President, confirmed that he was resigning as a member of the board of directors of the government-controlled Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC).

"I felt I could never work with someone who only has harsh words for me. I never expected that from the President," he said in a phone interview, referring to Ms Macapagal's statement Wednesday that "a strong republic cannot afford to have termites from within."

"I'll let the public judge the harsh words from the President," said the man who served as political strategist for then Senator Macapagal in 1997.

"We can criticize (the President) and she listens to us," Saycon told INQ7.net in an earlier interview. "We sort of remind her about Edsa. That's basically what we do to help her. It's really a love-hate relationship."

SAYCON/A18

THE BIRTHDAY party of Copa secretary general Pastor "Boy" Saycon (at left) held at his Ayala Alabang residence was infested by "termites" but a good time was had by all, including Boy Montelibano, Patricia Sison and Billy Esposo. JOAN BONDOC

Second FRONT PAGE

NAKAKAHIYA !

Survey says most women won't vote for GMA

By Blanche S. Rivera

SIX out of ten women in Metro Manila will not vote for President Macapagal-Arroyo should she stand for election in 2004, a recent survey by the Center for Women's Resources showed.

Sixty-three percent of 1,800 respondents said they would not vote for the President because their situation has not improved since Ms Macapagal came into power in January 2001.

The CWR, a 20-year-old training and research institute, conducted the all-female survey from May 8 to June 14. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

The CWR polled housewives, students, wage and salaried workers, own-account workers and professionals from urban poor and middle class communities in Metro Manila's 11 towns and cities.

The survey showed a mere 13 percent would "definitely vote" for the President if she ran in 2004, while 22 percent said they were undecided.

Most of the undecided respondents said their vote would depend on the President's performance between now and 2004, while others said their vote would depend on who Ms Macapagal's rivals for the presidency would be.

"Women expect more from the President because she promised that food, jobs, housing and other basic needs would be a priority under her administration," according to CWR Executive Director Gertrudes Ranjo-Libang.

Libang said the women have been "doubly disappointed because the President is a woman."

She said another reason given by women for not supporting the President's 2004 bid was her lack of charisma.

Ms Macapagal's recent consultations with various sectors and advisers were also perceived as a sign of weakness and inability to make important decisions on her own, Libang said, citing remarks made by respondents on the questionnaire.

The survey also sought the women's sentiments on wages and other economic issues under the Macapagal administration.

The President had promised "food on the table and roof over their heads" in her first State of the Nation Address last year. She also said she would create jobs and give more employment opportunities to women.

The President is set to deliver her second SONA when Congress opens on July 22 amid criticism she has been playing traditional politics to boost her presidential bid in 2004.

The CWR is a non-profit organization that undertakes research on issues concerning women. It comes out with a situationer on Filipino women every year.

Libang said that while the CWR is not officially affiliated with any political or militant organization, it accepts commissioned researches from mostly grassroots groups.

It is often tapped by local governments, church organizations and other more militant groups like Gabriela and Bayan to do studies on specific topics, mostly concerning the plight of women in the Philippines.

For its latest survey, the CWR sought the help of some church and urban poor groups in choosing and getting acquainted with the respondent communities.

Libang said 82 percent of the respondents were from urban poor communities while 18 percent were randomly selected from various public places like malls and city halls.

Deaths, damage caused by rains continue to rise

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Four more persons were reported killed in floods in Pangasinan, Bataan and Bulacan, bringing to eight the number of typhoon-related fatalities in Northern and Central Luzon, reports here said.

This brought the casualty figures chalked up by the recent rains and typhoons to 37 killed with four persons missing and 41 injured, the National Disaster Coordinating Council reported yesterday morning.

The NDCC also said the rains caused P144.346 million in damage to livestock, crops and to the fishing industry.

Worst hit, based on NDCC figures, was Region III with an estimated P76.312 million in damage, most of it to infrastructure.

The figure did not include the province of Pampanga, which was also hard hit by the floods.

Maguindanao reported P36.760 million in crop damage followed by Sultan Kudarat and Cotabato, which reported crop damage of P10.5 million each.

As the death toll and damage figures rose, the number of evacuees went down yesterday to 10,405 with more than half of them in the Region III provinces of Bataan, Bulacan, Zambales, Tarlac, Pampanga and Nueva Ecija.

Disaster officials identified the latest fatalities as Junel Guela, 11, of Orani, Bataan; Kim Eiperson, 2, of Malolos, Bulacan; Gerard Sison, 14; of Alaminos City, and Leopoldo Fernando, 14, of Malasiqui, Pangasinan.

Reports said they drowned as monsoon rains and typhoon "Hambalos" (international name: Nakri) continued to pound the northern regions on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the provincial disaster and coordinating council in Pangasinan said 5-year-old Jig Sison of Barangay Angarian in Bugallon town drowned while walking home in a flooded area.

In Bulacan, the body of Christopher Libanon, 15, who had been reported missing, was recovered from the Minuyan River in San Jose del Monte City. Libanon, reports said, was swept by strong river currents on Tuesday.

Seven towns in Pangasinan were declared under the state of calamity due to floods.

These were Bayambang, Bugallon, Calasiao, San Manuel, Sta. Maria, Sta. Barbara and Sison.

Yolanda Fuertes, Jovelyn Reyes, Vincent Cabreza, Leoncio Balbin Jr. and Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas, Jun Malig, Cesar Villa, Ronaldo Dizon, Anselmo Roque and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Bishops, others push for stop to executions

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

CATHOLIC bishops and human rights groups appealed yesterday to President Macapagal-Arroyo to extend the moratorium on executions imposed by former President Joseph Estrada, in the face of the scheduled execution of a convicted rapist on Oct. 16.

"If Joseph Estrada is more morally sensitive than President Macapagal, then he should be released from detention and returned to Malacañang," said University of the Philippines activist chaplain Fr. Robert Reyes.

"After seven executions, Estrada declared a moratorium. Now President Macapagal is about to lift the moratorium. Is this morally correct? Is this politically correct," asked Reyes at a gathering of anti-death penalty advocates in Quezon City.

The Legazpi City court had sentenced convicted rapist Alfredo Nardo to death by lethal injection on Oct. 16. Only a presidential pardon or commutation can save Nardo from execution.

The President has said she will not stop the execution of convicted kidnappers. Human rights groups, however, believe Ms Macapagal's declaration would eventually apply to all death convicts, as the President seems intent on putting forward a tough image.

Santos Lamban, secretary general of the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates, noted that Ms Macapagal has even enlisted the help of Rodrigo Duterte, the tough-talking mayor of Davao City, whom Pahra called a "known violator of human rights."

Duterte, the new presidential adviser on anti-kidnapping, has drawn flak for espousing his version of the death penalty. He said in a recent anti-kidnapping summit that the way to combat kidnapping was through the extra-judicial killing of suspected kidnappers.

The Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said politicians are pushing for the death penalty not because they believe in it as an appropriate national policy but because it is a popular cause.

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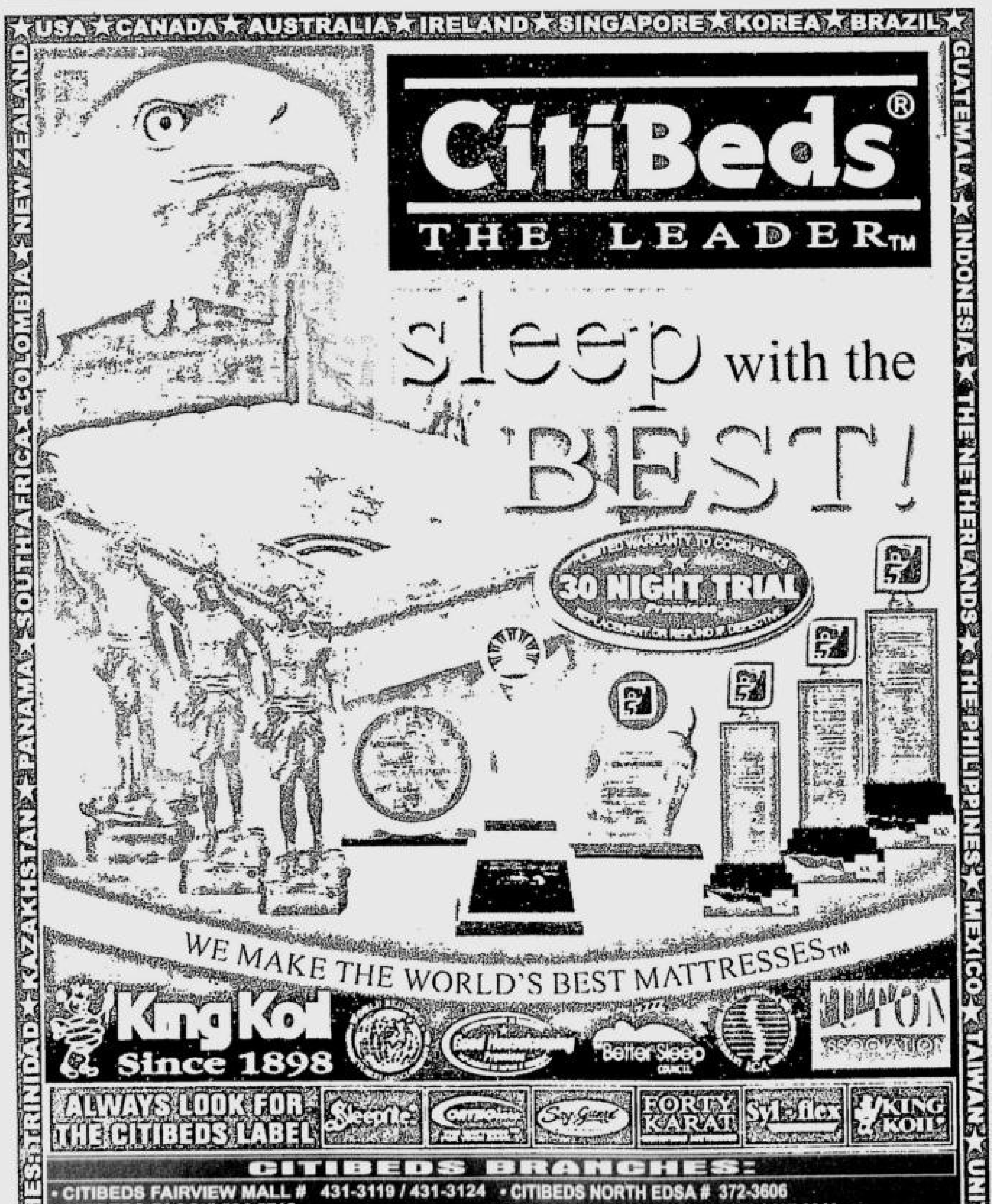
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9 IPP deals won't be renewed

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said yesterday the government would not renew the contracts of nine independent power producers that are expiring in the next three years, even as it prepares for talks with IPPs regarding the review of their contracts.

In an interview, Perez said the non-renewal of at least nine IPP contracts was part of the government's effort to reduce its financial obligations and lower the cost of electricity.

He said the nine contracts include those covering the Navotas gas turbines 1-3, Toledo-Cebu coal thermal, Pinamucan diesel and Iligan 1 diesel plants that are expiring next year. The four IPPs account for a combined 428 megawatts of generating capacity.

In 2004, contracts covering the 15.73-Mw Makban binary cycle and the 58-Mw Bataan-Epza diesel I power plants will end.

In 2005, the contracts for the Navotas-GT4, Iligan 2 diesel and Cavite-Epza cogen plants will expire. The three plants account for a total 203.5 Mw.

Perez said his department would also be calling on IPPs whose contracts were determined in a recent study to have questionable financial issues.

The energy department, along with the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm), has been tasked to review further 22 IPP contracts found to contain such issues.

Of the nine expiring contracts, the ones for the Navotas, Pinamucan, Iligan and Bataan-Epza plants were among the 22 contracts the DoE ordered reviewed.

"In the next step to reforming the energy sector, we seek the full cooperation of those 22 IPPs," Perez said.

He said his aim is to rationalize the power sector by exhausting all legal means to bring down the cost of electricity.

Before the recent reforms in the power industry, the Philippines had the third highest cost of power in the region after Japan and Hong Kong, Perez said.

He said this is expected to improve to sixth place for residential users and fourth or fifth place for industrial users.

Bunye gets Palace press office tour

By Carlito Pablo

TRY it on for size.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable must have made the comment to former Muntinlupa Rep. Ignacio "Toting" Bunye, as he led the latter around the Office of the Press Secretary, the leadership of which has reportedly been offered to Bunye by Malacañang.

Afable told reporters he filled Bunye in on the workings of the OPS since the latter was at the Palace yesterday.

"We want to anticipate his coming in," Afable said. "He's been projected (to be named) to that post."

Bunye also met with Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo at Malacañang. No details were revealed about that meeting, however.

The Palace has yet to issue Bunye's appointment papers, which were supposedly due out this week.

A source in the Bunye camp charged, however, that "some quarters are attempting to put snags in the process."

"Some people are throwing a monkey wrench into it by making it appear that Bunye's appointment was related to the problems in the Senate," the source, who sought anonymity, said.

In an earlier interview, Bunye said the offer of the press secretary portfolio was not connected to the efforts of President Macapagal-Arroyo to break the leadership impasse in the Senate.

Pichay sues Alvarez over concession

By G. Lacuarta

SURIGAO del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay has filed graft charges against Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez over the allegedly anomalous granting of a 110,790-hectare forest concession to a Singaporean company.

The irony is that both Pichay and Alvarez belong to the Lakas-NUCD party, with the latter its secretary general.

Alvarez's confirmation has repeatedly been bypassed at the Commission on Appointments over issues raised about his leadership and contracts he entered into.

Pichay chairs the House committee on defense and security.

In his complaint, Pichay alleged a co-production agreement entered into by Alvarez and Shannalyne Inc. on Dec. 8, 2001 violated the constitutional provision that limits exploitation of the country's natural resources to firms at least 60 percent owned by Filipinos.

Pichay claimed Shannalyne was wholly owned by Singapo-reans Jean Tan and Cheou Teck Tan as shown in its articles of incorporation.

For his part, Alvarez said Pichay filed "a miscalculated complaint against a misunderstood co-production agreement."

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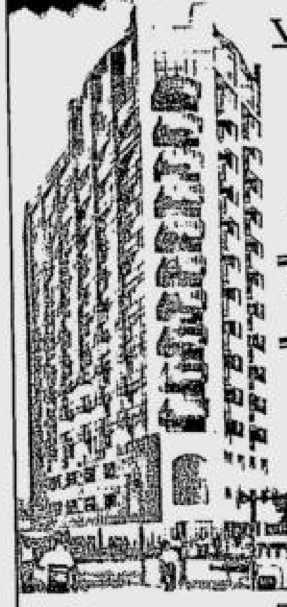

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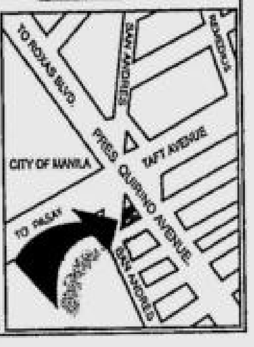

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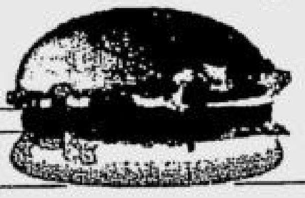

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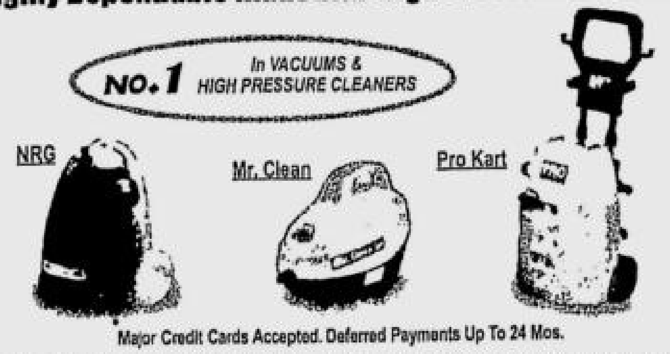

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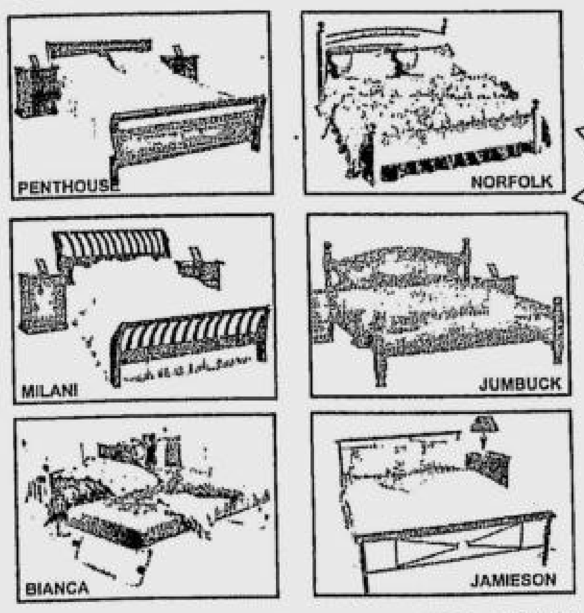

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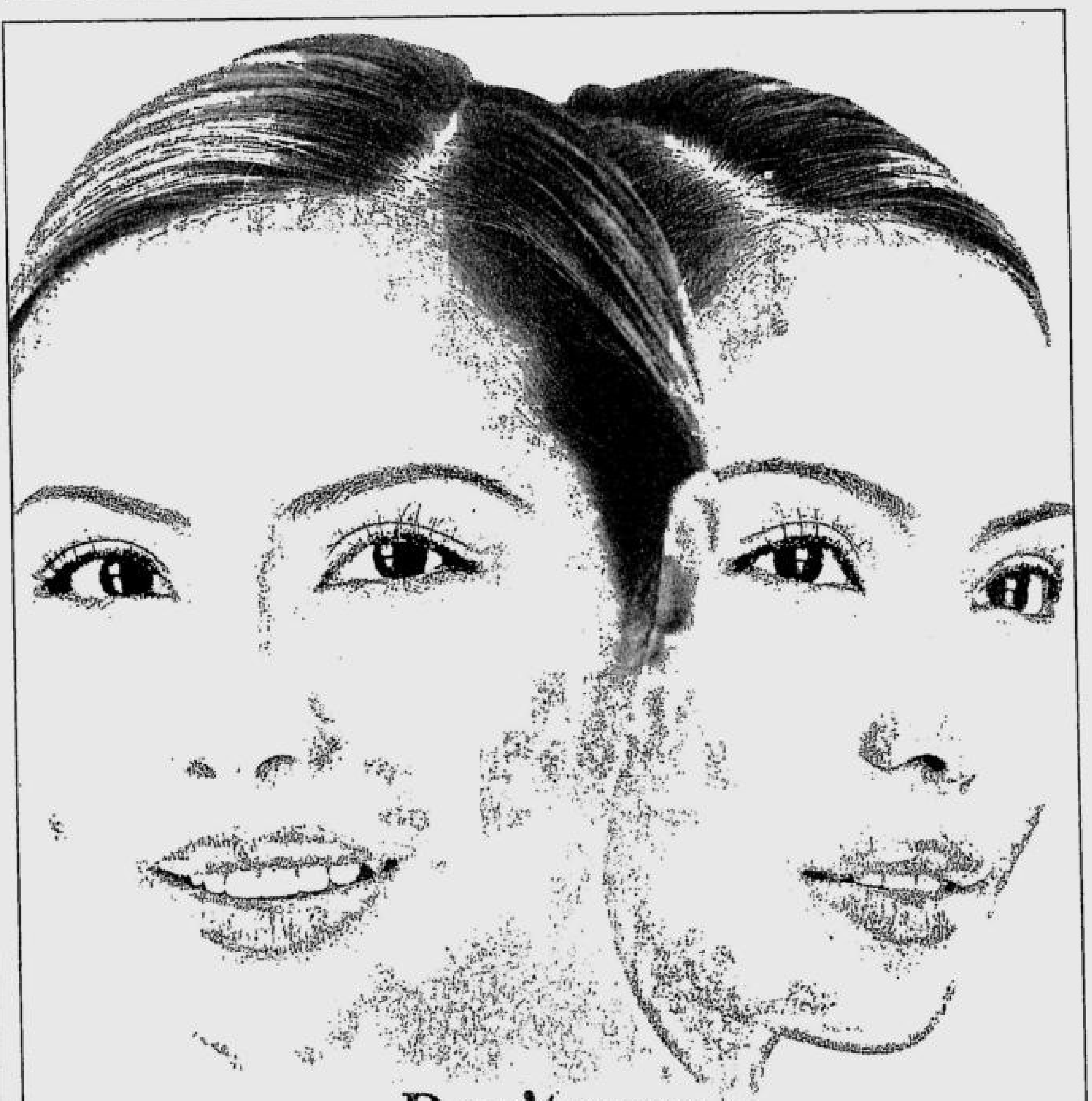

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Guingona snubs Shanghai rites

By Norman Bordadora

SHANGHAI—Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. opted not to exercise what would have been his last significant act as head of the country's diplomatic missions when he kept away from the opening of the new Philippine consulate general here.

Guingona's decision not to attend the inauguration on Wednesday of the new diplomatic mission in Shanghai came just five days before he bows out of the Department of Foreign Affairs. His resignation takes effect on Monday.

"He is just winding up at the department," explained Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin.

Guingona was said to have been looking forward to the inauguration but the events that led to his dramatic resignation made him think twice about going, a source said.

"He suddenly decided that he doesn't need to go (to the inauguration) with just a few days left in his term," said the source.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo was sent in Guingona's stead, presumably to lend some prestige to the inauguration.

"I was sent here because the Vice President could not make it. This is a very important event for Philippine and Chinese diplomatic relations," Arroyo said.

He said he was not told why Guingona decided to stay out.

Guingona is expected to wrap up his business at the DFA today when he bids farewell to his undersecretaries and assistant secretaries.

It will be his last working day at the department since Monday has been declared a holiday because of the barangay polls.

He is also expected to meet with the DFA's officers and rank-and-file employees. A press conference has been scheduled at the DFA.

Ambassador Jesus Yabes will be the first consul general in Shanghai, a position that would be considered a demotion considering that his last posting was as ambassador to Singapore.

"This is a very important development in the diplomatic and trade relations between the Philippines and China. Someone has to take on the job and I don't consider it a demotion," Yabes said.

OFWs face jail, caning

By Rocky Nazareno, Blanche S. Rivera, and Ayan C. Mellejor

SEVEN Filipino seamen are facing 15 months in jail for mauling an Indian national in Singapore.

The identities of the seven Filipinos, who were arrested on March 30, was not immediately available.

Cherilyn Olalia, a legal officer at the Department of Foreign Affairs, said the seven would have faced a jail term of five years for the mauling but this was reduced to 15 months, plus five lashes of the cane.

Neighboring Malaysia, meanwhile, has said it would implement judicial caning, or six lashes, on Filipinos and other illegal aliens before they are deported once the amnesty period expires this month.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said this was one of the major concerns of the Bureau of Immigration as there were still more than 10,000 Filipinos in Malaysia who are set to be deported.

Domingo, who was in Davao City for the two-day 1st BIMP-EAGA CIQS (Customs, Immigration, Quarantine, Security) conference, said the government was trying to make representations with the Malaysian foreign affairs ministry to have judicial caning waived for Filipinos.

The Department of Labor and Employment said yesterday it should have been alerted by Bahraini authorities of the impending crackdown on gay workers.

She said the embassy and labor offices in Bahrain had not been officially informed of the planned crackdown.

Labor Undersecretary Lucita Lazo said the Bahraini authorities should have at least notified the labor attache of the crackdown so that the Philippines could enforce measures to protect Filipino gays in Bahrain.

Lazo, who handles the reintegration of returning overseas Filipino workers, said the DOLE would investigate what triggered the crackdown and how many Filipinos would be affected.

But she said the Philippines would not yet impose a travel ban on gays leaving for Bahrain or any Muslim country known for their stringent rules on foreign workers.

"It is still a puzzle why Bahrain announced a crackdown. Our government should have been alerted. There should have been a warning," Lazo said.

An Overseas Workers Welfare Administration report showed that there are around 500 establishments in Bahrain, mostly beauty salons, tailoring and flower shops, and massage houses, employing Filipinos, some of whom are gay.

The Bahraini police has closed down two establishments and will be inspecting many more shops to verify suspicions that these are being used as prostitution houses for homosexuals.

According to Olalia, the Filipino seamen who were on a furlough in Singapore had a drinking spree at the West Coast Drive Food Center.

After the drinking bout, they allegedly argued about the bill.

The argument reportedly turned rowdy as they demanded their change of S$20 from the waiter.

This apparently irked the Indian who was sitting at an adjacent table.

The Indian reportedly approached the Filipinos and accosted them. The confrontation reportedly led to a melee with one of the Filipinos emerging with a deep gash on his head and the Indian national injured.

The seven Filipinos will serve their term at the Queens Town Remand Prison and would be caned at the end of their term.

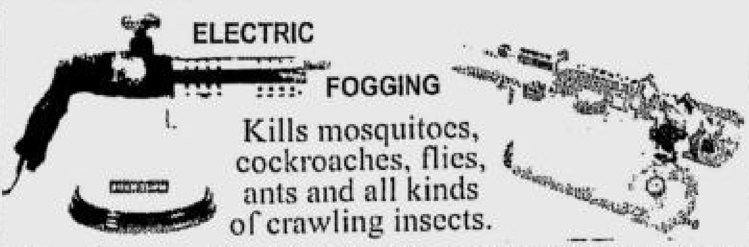
The caning could be waived, however, if they serve their term with good behavior, their lawyer said.

On Wednesday, a total of 135 Filipinos from Sandakan, Malaysia arrived in Zamboanga.

Domingo said an average of 700 to 800 Filipinos were being deported from Malaysia every week.

Ricardo Reyes, chief of the Immigration Office in Zamboanga, said most of the deportees were from Zamboanga, Jolo, Tawi-Tawi and Basilan.

DENGUE PROBLEM? MILLENNIUM



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Cops placed on heightened alert ahead of barangay polls

By TJ Burgonio and Blanche S. Rivera

THE PHILIPPINE National Police has been placed on heightened alert ahead of the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on Monday, as the death toll in the campaign period rose to 29.

New PNP chief Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. ordered yesterday the 113,000-strong police force to be prepared for "any contingency and threats" in the run-up to the polls.

He also directed police units in all levels to coordinate with Commission on Elections officials on the conduct of patrols and checkpoints and the enforcement of the gun and liquor bans.

Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, newly designated PNP spokesperson, said so far 29 persons have been killed while 13 others have been wounded in a total of 41 violent incidents nationwide.

Those killed included 13 incumbent local officials, eight candidates and seven of their supporters, Bataoil said.

The latest casualties were barangay councilor Ricardo Suelto of Calamba City and barangay treasurer Elias Abud and his wife Josephine of Datu Maitum, Sarangani, who were gunned down by unidentified assailants on Monday.

Bataoil said 7,973 barangays in 1,052 cities and towns throughout the country have been listed as potential "hot spots."

President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared July 15 a nonworking holiday to allow citizens to vote and teachers and other election workers to attend to their poll duties.

But even if the 30 million qualified Filipino voters cast their ballots on Monday, many barangays would still not have any youth officials as the Comelec revealed that there were no candidates for the Sangguniang Kabataan in 697 barangays nationwide.

A report to Commissioner Resurreccion Borra showed there were "zero candidates" for SK chair in 134 barangays and for SK councilors in 563 barangays all over the country.

In Metro Manila, there were no candidates for SK chair in 42 barangays and SK councilors in 69 barangays.

A. Magtrayo; 85

RETIRED Col. Apolonio B. Magtrayo of Cagayan de Oro City died on July 8 at the age of 85. He was the husband of the late Gloria D. Magtrayo.

He is survived by his children Consuelo and Oscar, Cecilia and Robert, Celso and Cynthia, Camilo and Dolly, Carlito and Sonia, Carmen and Vicente, Celeste, and Caesar, and his grandchildren. His body lies at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes in Cagayan de Oro. He will be buried on Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Greenhills Memorial Park in that city.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, July 12, 2002
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1st Reading: Hos 14:2-10
Gospel: Mt 10:16-23

Jesus said to his disciples, "Look, I send you out like sheep among wolves. You must be clever as snakes and innocent as doves. Be on your guard with respect to people, for they will hand you over to their courts and they will flog you in their synagogues. You will be brought to trial before rulers and kings because of me, and so you may witness to them and the pagans.

But when you are arrested, do not worry about what you are to say and how you are to say it; when the hour comes, you will be given what you are to say. For it is not you who will speak; but it will be the Spirit of your Father in you.

Brother will hand over brother to death, and a father his child; children will turn against parents and have them put to death. Everyone will hate you because of me, but whoever stands firm to the end will be saved.

When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. For sure, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

Commentary

You will be persecuted, says the Lord. Why? Are we not good and lovable persons? You will be persecuted because of me. To stand for Jesus is to stand for people. During those times there were 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire. It was a nightmare to think what would happen if these slaves rebel. When Christians considered the slaves as equals, as brothers, and assumed their plight, persecution started. On May 3, 2000 Fr. Rhoel Gallardo, CMF together with teachers Editha, Annabel and Ruben, were killed by Abu Sayyaf group in Basilan Island. They were serving those children of Claret School in the remote Tumahubong village. A long history of persons and even entire Christian groups which had assumed a risky position have become martyrs. What about us when confronted by situations of violence or corruption?

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Ebdane denies pushing top police brass to quit

By TJ Burgonio
and Rocky Nazareno

THE CHIEF of the national police, Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., yesterday denied reports that high-ranking generals have been asked to sign prepared letters of resignation to give him "a free hand" in a reshuffle.

Ebdane recently took over the command of the Philippine National Police amid reports of demoralization in the organization over the dismissal of seven top police generals for their alleged failure to curb illegal gambling.

A police general who asked not to be named claimed there was indeed a move to ask the top generals to sign prepared resignation letters.

"It was done in bad taste. Unless this is corrected, it will take a toll on the image of the PNP," he said.

Sources at Camp Crame said that members of the PNP directorial staff (generals with two- or three-star ranks) had been asked to sign individual resignation letters.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina said he was not aware of any such thing, but hinted that this was not unprecedented.

"Usually when there's a new PNP chief, members of the organization submit courtesy resignations so that the PNP chief will have a free hand in organizing his own team that will help him in carrying out his functions," Lina said.

Ebdane said that if some officials do decide to submit their resignations, "that will be on their own initiative."

He said one general, Director Virtus Gil, who heads the personnel and records management section, did file a letter of resignation.

But Gil only made the move to set an example to 30 provincial directors who had threatened to quit in protest against the relief of seven police generals.

"When we met with the provincial directors, Gen. Gil was with me. He submitted his resignation letter to show the provincial directors," Ebdane said.

Ebdane had flatly told the directors to hand in their courtesy resignations.

During the meeting with the provincial directors on Tuesday night, some of the directors did submit their resignations.

But Ebdane said the courtesy resignations would "remain as is until action is taken."

Gil, who was the one who had allegedly circulated the prepared letters of resignation for the generals' signature, sought to downplay the reports.

"It's a long story," he told reporters as he rushed to a meeting with Ebdane and other generals reportedly to discuss the matter.

Opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, meanwhile, urged the President and Lina to intervene and act on reports of disgust and demoralization in the PNP "before this problem blows up to uncontrollable proportions."

They should "step in and immediately resolve the emerging problem in the PNP leadership," Biazon said.

He cited the planned manifesto to be circulated by police provincial commanders and regional commanders deploring the National Police Commission's decision to sack the seven ranking police officials.

He said this had been aggravated by a mass resignation threat from the police provincial and regional commanders.

"It is not in the best interest of the country to allow widespread demoralization in an armed organization like the PNP or any law enforcement agency for that matter," said Biazon.

He said the reported circulation of letters asking the directorial staff to resign from their positions was also adding to the demoralization and confusion in the PNP.

CHECK YOUR RIGHT MEDICINE

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo helps launch RiteMed, a new line of medicines, at the Watson's drugstore yesterday at SM Megamall. Looking on are Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit and SM Group president Tessie Sy-Coson. EDWIN BACASMAS

Action on loose guns urged

THREE administration senators yesterday called for an intensified campaign to recover loose firearms but took contradictory stances on how to go about it.

Sen. Ralph Recto proposed a gun-for-cash swap program for Moro guerillas who give up fighting.

Sen. Loren Legarda appealed to the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Philippine National Police to intensify efforts to recover the reported two million in loose firearms.

Sen. Noli de Castro recommended an amnesty program so loose firearms would be declared, registered and regulated.

The three senators were reacting to information revealed by David Kilgour, Canada's secretary of state for Asia and the Pacific, that there were two million loose firearms in the Philippines, particularly in Mindanao.

Kilgour spoke during the opening here of a two-day "Regional Seminar on Implementing the UN Program of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons."

The Canadian official, quoting a Philippine government official, said there were only 775,000 legally registered firearms in the country.

Recto said that buying loose firearms in the Muslim regions might also reduce criminality in an area where gun-carrying is inherent in the culture. *Cynthia D. Balana*

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Army intelligence cleared in Abu poster row

By Martin P. Marfil

THE ARMED Forces yesterday cleared Army intelligence of any wrongdoing in the mistaken inclusion of a People's Journal reporter in "wanted" posters with Abu Sayyaf bandits, saying it was a battalion commander who had blundered.

The incident had provoked calls from legislators for Congress to slash the AFP's intelligence budget.

"The (AFP) clears its Intelligence Service of any responsibility on the mistaken identity issue, involving journalist Bernadette Tamayo of People's Journal," the AFP said in a statement.

The statement said Lt. Col. Danilo Lucero, the chief of the 18th Infantry Battalion, had admitted having obtained the picture from the photo archive of his unit, which he had scanned for the photos of the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Lucero, the statement said, had put up the poster on the battalion's bulletin board on April 2001. He reportedly removed it on June 2, 2002 after receiving a letter from Tamayo.

Noting that a meeting between Tamayo and AFP chief Gen. Roy Cimatu had settled the matter, the AFP appeared to be putting the incident behind it.

"The AFP reiterates that the mistaken identity issue concerning (Tamayo) has already been settled after Gen. Roy Cimatu met her in a press conference yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo," the statement added.

In addition, the military issued two certificates clearing Tamayo of any links to the Abu Sayyaf group.

The certificates were issued by Brig. Gen. Glenn Rabonza, the deputy chief of staff for intelligence, and Col. Pedro Ramon Sinajon Jr., the Southern Command assistant chief of the unified command staff for intelligence.

Tamayo yesterday appeared to have been mollified by the certifications and a promised letter of apology from Lucero.

She said she could now "heave a sigh of relief."

She said she hoped the AFP had learned a lesson, "to be more circumspect in its intelligence-gathering operations so as not put innocent civilians at risk."

"It pains me a lot to think that (the two) documents would forever enslave me," she said.

Tamayo had entered an Abu Sayyaf camp at the height of the Sipadan hostage crisis situation in 2000.

While conducting interviews, she was photographed with the Abu Sayyaf leader, Commander Robot.

This was the photo that appeared in the military posters.

UERMMMC-INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES ON DIABETES FOUNDATION, INC.
PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF DIABETOLOGISTS
UE-ISDFI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
4th Ricardo E. Fernando Professorial Lecture

July 13, 2002. EDSA Shangri-La Manila 1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

MESSAGES

My warmest greetings to the Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation, Inc. on the occasion of the 4th Ricardo E. Fernando Professorial Lecture. I commend you for your dedication towards our common goal of improving the health of our countrymen. More than ever before, we need to join hands and double our efforts to make our nation a land where all Filipinos can live healthy productive and fulfilling lives. The services that you provide encapsulate the thrust of our administration to improve the quality of life of our people.

This year's event demonstrate your strong commitment to keep our medical practitioners abreast wit the new trends and knowledge in the treatment of diabetes, a degenerative disease which afflicts many of our countrymen. It is also an indication of your desire to render the best health care services to our people. May this occasion inspire you to build on your past achievements and to upgrade your medical expertise to ensure a healthy Filipino citizenry.

I enjoin you to continue administering to the health needs of every Filipino, especially to the poor and disadvantaged.

May you have a fruitful event. MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

I would like to convey my warmest felicitations to the faculty, students and staff of the Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation, Inc. as you hold the 4th Ricardo E. Fernando Professorial Lecture on July 13, 2002.

I am greatly pleased by your institute's continuing efforts to educate our health professionals regarding the diabetes scourge which is affecting a considerable number of people in our country and worldwide. Being the only institution in Asia and the Pacific to offer a masteral program on diabetes, the leadership that you provide in the area of diabetes education contributes immensely to our country's fight against this disease.

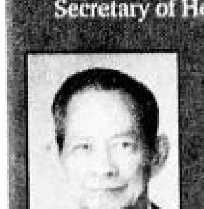
Your initiative to bring Prof. Marja-Riitta Taskinen of the University of Helsinki to the country in order to share her expertise on lipids and their link to diabetes and insulin resistance speaks of your earnest desire to improve the quality of care of diabetes patients in our country even as we strengthen our programs on its prevention and control.

As one of our major partners in the national program for diabetes control, your institution plays a crucial role in our advocacy campaign for the adoption of healthy lifestyle among our people, rich or poor, young and old alike. We therefore exhort the organizers and participants of this activity to help in the promotion of healthy lifestyles as our best defense against the rising incidence of degenerative disease in our country.

I assure you of the health department's full support to this undertaking and all of your future endeavors as we, in collaboration with other partners in the health sector, attempt to move this country forward towards better health for all Filipinos.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health



The world today is reeling from the effects of massive terrorism. But another more insidious set of killers is spreading around in epidemic proportions and these are the new world's diseases of lifestyle, mainly, the products of a perverse generation that considers "eat all you can" and "drink all you can" simple elements of human rights. Obesity and hypertension and diabetes and coronary artery disease and strokes have descended upon mankind with the fury of self-destruct mechanisms threatening to wipe out humanity. While once the "apple" stood for man's self-condemnation in the Garden, today hamburger and softdrinks and cigarettes and alcohol and stress and sedentary life have all contributed to humanity's final curse.

The time is short and obesity and diabetes are threatening the most powerful nation on earth. We are not far behind because our culture in the past century unfortunately has been so influenced by western lifestyle. Unless something more radical than EDSA I takes over and soon, we shall be similarly damned.

Consider seriously that the obese/hypertensives/diabetics of tomorrow will come from the children of today: your children and my children. What we can offer as families and medical groups and church organizations, the government can ill afford. So bless the future of this country, through your personal efforts radically changing current lifestyle in your families and communities, with the gift of less diabetes in the coming two or 3 generations!

RICARDO E. FERNANDO, MD
Chairman and President
Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation, Inc.

PROGRAMME

Morning Session
7:00 am *Registration*
8:00 am *Invocation*
Philippine National Anthem
ISDFI Hymn
(Pfizer)
8:30 am *Welcome Remarks*
MARCELO A. LIM, MD, MS
Introduction of the Guest Speaker
ARACELI A. PANELO, MD. MS
9:00 am Problems of Lipids in Diabetes
The Role of Insulin Resistance
PROF. MARJA – RIITTA TASKINEN, MD
10:30 am *Awarding of Medal*
Coffee Break
Opening of Exhibit Booths

EDITHA ARCEO – DALISAY, MD, MS
Master of Ceremonies
Afternoon Session
1:00 p.m. *ALUMNI WORKSHOP*
3:00 p.m. *Coffee Break*
4:00 p.m. *Business Meeting*
LEORINO SOBREPEÕA, MD, MS
6:00 p.m. *Closing Remarks*
RICARDO E. FERNANDO, MD, FPCP

RICHARD ELWYN V. FERNANDO, MD, MS
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7:30 p.m. 4th Annual Homecoming & Fellowship Night

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CONTAMINATED MILK

DOH orders recall of GAIN products

By Blanche S. Rivera

MOTHERS, check your toddler's milk box.

The health department has announced that it is recalling the Danish-manufactured GAIN milk products that come in 200-gram pouches because of concerns that the milk may have been contaminated with lubricating oil and microscopic steel flakes.

All milk packs with lot numbers 85583YX, 85585YX, 86617YX and 86620YX should be returned to the DOH-Bureau of Food and Drugs for replacement.

Mothers whose children may have already consumed the contaminated milk should register the children's names with the BFAD so authorities can monitor any long-term effects.

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration has informed the Philippine government that the contaminated milk "will not pose a health risk because the amount of oil/fat is appraised to be very microscopic and are of a kind that does not give rise to health concerns."

But the health department and the BFAD said that as they could not be certain whether or not the consumption of the contaminated milk would have long-term effects, it was best that the affected GAIN products be recalled.

GAIN is a follow-on milk formula for kids aged 6 months up. It is distributed domestically by Abbott Laboratories Phils.

Abbott could not be reached for comment as of press time yesterday.

Dr. Edwin Cinco-Bolastig, the executive assistant of Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, said the Consumers Act mandates that all contaminated products, whether entailing an adverse effect or not, should be pulled out of the market.

The Consumers Act also compels the distributor to replace the affected products, Bolastig added.

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- SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING
  July 22 - August 2, 2002 M-W-F 6:00PM-8:00PM
- HOW TO DELEGATE WORK AND ENSURE IT'S DONE RIGHT
  July 20, 2002 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
- PLANNING, DIRECTING AND CONTROLLING SKILLS FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS
  July 23 and 25, 2002 T-Th 6:00PM-8:00PM
- ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS
  July 20, 2002 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
- PERT/CPM
  July 27 - August 10, 2002 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
- RECORDS AND FILE MANAGEMENT
  July 22 - August 2, 2002 M-W-F 6:00PM-8:00PM
- EFFECTIVE VEHICLES MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT
  July 27 - August 10, 2002 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
- CASH MANAGEMENT
  July 20, 2002 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
- 5S : GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
  July 23, 25 and 30, 2002 T-Th 6:00PM-9:00PM

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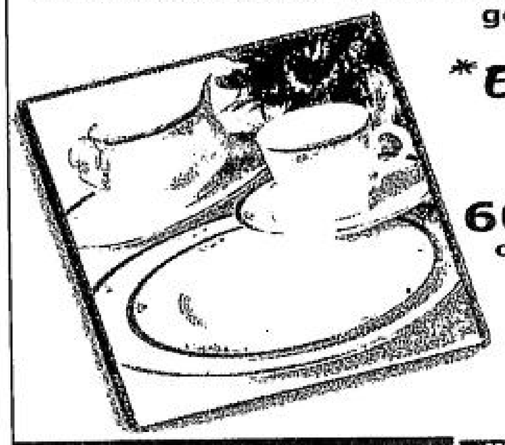

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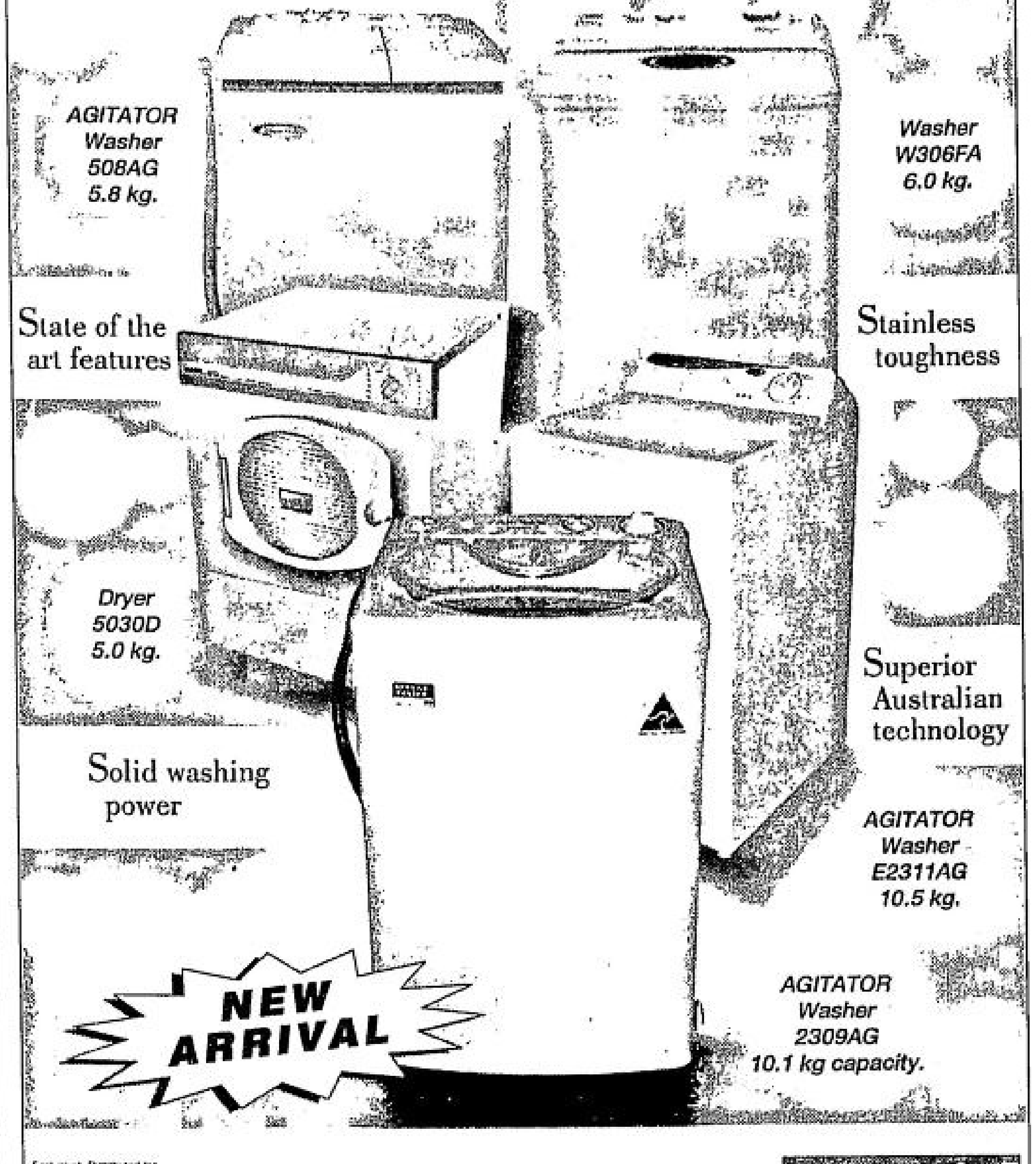

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Bad boy

EDITORIAL

DAVAO City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte must have felt he was among friends at the anti-crime summit last Tuesday. He spoke expansively, confidently, holding forth for half an hour on an area of expertise dear to him: his unorthodox if effective approach to fighting crime.

In a dramatic moment, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's new anti-crime consultant even addressed criminal syndicates directly. "You must realize, you criminals, that you don't have a monopoly on evil in this country," he said.

His friends gave him an enthusiastic reception. Chinese-Filipino businessmen who have long borne the brunt of the kidnap-for-ransom crisis welcomed his "mail-fist" policy, while the President herself gushed like a schoolgirl: "Wow, *galing*!"

Duterte's remarks were full of catchy sound bites:

"The intention of the criminals is to instill fear in their victims and kill them. What should we do, but kill them also," he said. And again: "My policy is that if you are a kidnapper and a drug pusher, you put yourself and your life on the line." And yet again: Criminals "threaten to kill, so what we'll do is we kill them, too."

It is a measure of the public's desperation with rampant lawlessness that Duterte was hailed, not only at the summit, but on radio call-in shows in the last two days. This much is easy to understand. When the streets are no longer safe for walking, the figure of the proverbial man on horseback becomes even more imposing.

What is harder to understand is the President's seeming endorsement of Duterte's brand of law enforcement. As an economist, she must be fully aware that the reliable application of the rule of law—not short-sighted mailed-fist polices—has long been proven to be the essential condition of long-term prosperity. But even more important, she must know, as a defender of the Constitution, that extra-legal short cuts do not strengthen the legal order but undermine it.

Her embrace of Duterte's tough-guy persona—the same persona alleged to be behind the so-called Death Squads of Davao—makes sense only in strictly political terms. The President may be seeking to co-opt the tough-on-crime constituency of deposed President Joseph Estrada, and to steal the thunder from the prospective candidacy of former police chief Sen. Panfilo Lacson in 2004.

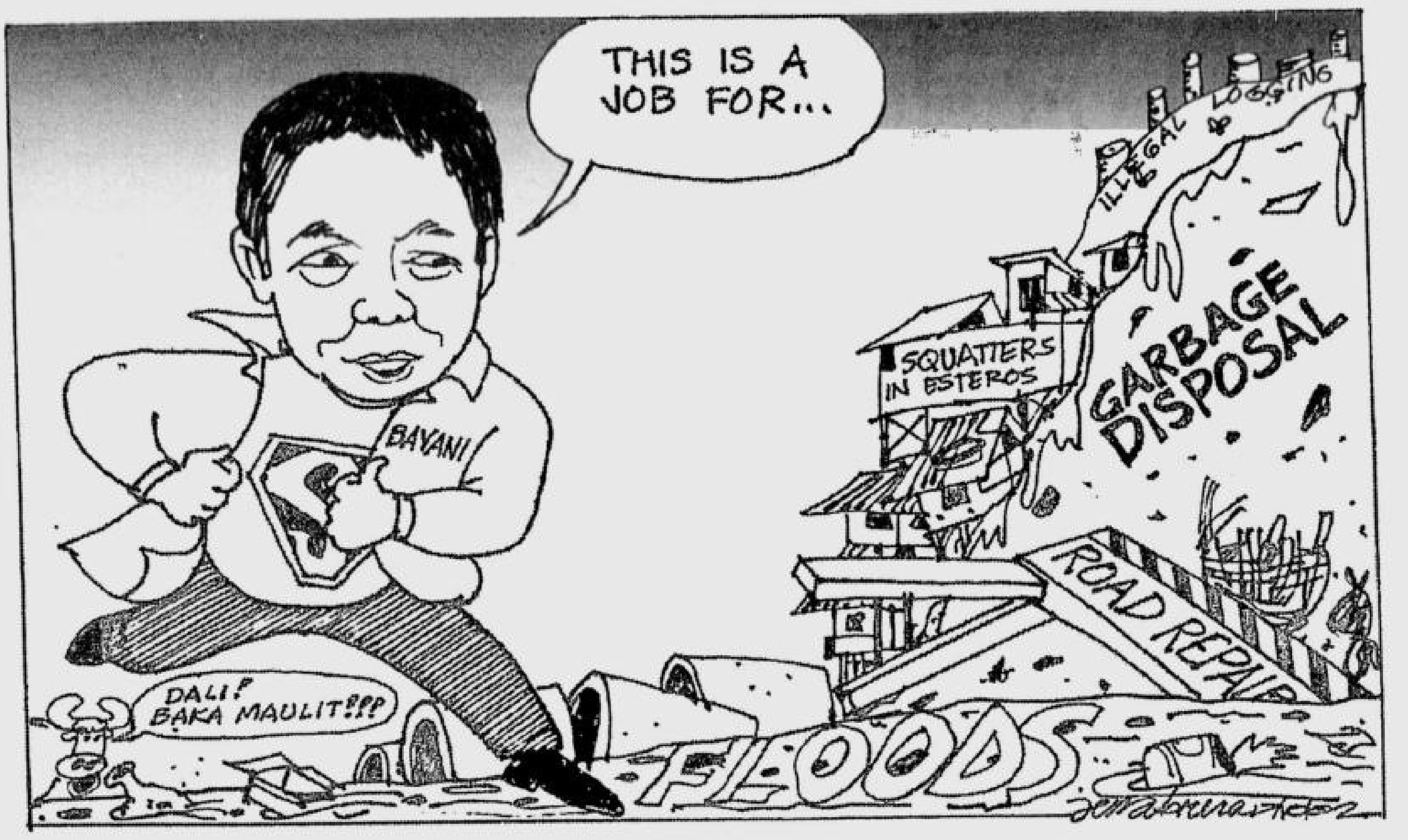
To be sure, there is a pressing need for the government to put an end to the spate of kidnappings that have terrorized the public and to stop the spread of illegal drugs, but it can be done without Duterte ripping the Bill of Rights apart.

The President must not step into Duterte's either-or trap: his blithe assumption that there are only two alternatives, his way or that of "bleeding heart" libertarians. This is a false choice, as the country's own experience tells us. It is possible to crack down on criminals, to get tough on crime, while respecting due process and the all-important constitutional provision that everyone is presumed innocent until proven otherwise.

The President must also remind Duterte and other tough guys in the making that many, if not all, of the victims of vigilante justice—of the over two dozen summary executions carried out by the Death Squads in Davao, for example—come from the poorer classes. The poor, as always, will be expendable, while the drug lords and the kidnapping masterminds will continue to enjoy the protection of lawyers and bodyguards.

The President must also preach the gospel of caution. When a person's life is at stake, the government must temper the use of its awesome powers—simply because it can also be wrong. Consider the case of defense reporter Bernadette Tamayo, who was included in the Armed Forces' Most Wanted list of Abu Sayyaf bandits by mistake.

If Duterte had been in charge then, we would be asking this question now: Did the monopoly of evil claim yet another casualty?



P3.9-B megadike will stop the floods

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE PERENNIAL floods in Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela can be traced to the pollution of the Tullahan-Tenejeros River which runs from Manila Bay, across Malabon to Valenzuela and beyond to Bulacan. The river was the lifeblood of the municipalities. People lived by fishing. It served as a highway, and barges called "cascos" were poled down the river with loads of nipa shingles, salt, vinegar, rice and other goods. The river was also the source of water for the many fishponds for which Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela were famous.

However, the river gradually became so polluted that no living thing except bacteria could survive in it. That water killed all the fishponds. The owners first shifted from the delicate milkfish to the hardy *tilapia*, but in time the *tilapia*, too, could not survive.

So the owners filled up their fishponds with dirt and sold them as subdivision lots. The fishponds used to be catchment basins for rainwater (the three municipalities practically had no drainage pipes). With the ponds filled up, the excess water had no place to go but out into the streets.

So the streets could be passable, the municipal governments raised street levels. The streets remained dry but the water went into the homes and yards of the residents. So the residents raised the level of their floorings and even jacked up whole houses to keep dry. The water went back to the streets.

The biggest of the ponds was Dagat-Dagatan which, as its name implies, was so big it was like a small sea. It was used by the Bureau of Fisheries as an experimental pond to make the *sabalo*, or adult milkfish (the milkfish we buy in the markets are just baby milkfish) to breed and spawn. The Marcos administration then had the stupid idea of filling it up for a housing project of the National Housing Authority. That housing project is now one big slum (many areas in Metro Manila are now slums).

But the worst part is that the rain waters lost its biggest catchment basin. And that is one reason the floods in Malabon and Navotas are now deeper and last longer. Another reason is that the river is now shallow because of silting and the garbage thrown in it by the people. The poisonous wastes spewed by the factories lining it poisoned the river; the squatters living along its banks made it their private garbage dump. With all that garbage and silt, the river therefore had less space to hold water. And so the water ran out into the streets and the homes.

In the first place, the three towns are low-lying areas. They must have been foreshore areas along Manila Bay centuries ago. During neap tides, even in summer, even when there is no rain, the river overflows its banks. But now, the river overflows even during ordinary high tides. Every day, residents check the times for the high tides so they will know when the floods will begin and they can adjust their activities. Residents who work elsewhere don't go home right away. They wait in fast-food outlets or malls for the tide to go out before they drive home.

People here have learned to live with the floods. Many homes have small electric pumps to pump out the water. Some have bancas under their houses. It is not surprising to find World War II amphibian boats running through the streets of Malabon and Navotas. Children have learned to make the flooded streets their playground. During floods, instead of sadness, there is a fiesta atmosphere in the towns.

But don't think that the people are contented with their fate. They still want deliverance from floods. Many measures have been tried—huge pumping stations, river gates to keep out the sea—but the floods keep coming.

Now there is a plan to put up a P3.9-billion megadike, funded by Japan, along the Tullahan-Tenejeros River. Concrete dikes would be built along both banks of the river all the way to Bulacan to keep it from overflowing. They will be complemented by pumps and by a huge gate at the mouth of the river to keep the high tide from flowing in.

Aside from hopefully preventing floods, the megadike would have added benefits. The tops of the dikes would be made into riverside boulevards, thus adding streets to Malabon which has only two narrow (with no sidewalks) main streets. The three-meter easement should be planted to trees, grass and flowering plants and converted into promenades.

This would greatly increase the value of properties along the river. Right now, they are only the unsightly backyards from where waste is thrown into the river. With the new boulevards, they would have a frontage. Beautiful homes with views of the river. The city and municipal governments would be able to collect higher real estate taxes, which the owner should be glad to pay.

Better yet, river-grabbing will be stopped. Owners of properties along the riverbanks have been filling up the river with dirt and claiming the reclaimed land as their own. With the concrete streets lining the riverbanks, they can't do that anymore.

With the boulevards, the squatters lining the banks of the river would have to go. Anybody who throws garbage into the river can be readily seen. Factories spewing their effluents into the river would be visible.

With the water clean again, the river can again be a highway, with ferries and boats carrying passengers and goods to and from Bulacan and Pampanga to Manila Bay.

Best of all, engineers will need silt and sand to fill up the strip to be reclaimed and made into the boulevards. That means, the river would be dredged to get the sand and silt for the reclamation. And that means the river would be made deeper and it would be able to hold more water.

Deliverance is near. All that is needed is for the Department of Public Work and Highways to move faster.

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Topic of next Monday's Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel) are the periodic floods. Invited panelists are MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, Public Works Undersecretary Ted Encarnacion and Assistant Secretary Salvador Pleyto, and Mayors Amado Vicencio of Malabon, Tobias Tiangco of Navotas and Jose Carlos of Valenzuela.

Before you know it

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THERE'S a recent development in our neighborhood. Over the past couple of months, people have been posted on the various gates at night. But on our gate, they do more than watch out for the unsavory nocturnal characters that have been lurking in the area of late. They try to untangle the mess that is the pile of cars strewn on our parking lot.

The reason for this mess, which I wrote about sometime last year, is this: Our parking lot used to be a reasonably orderly one until the day someone took it into his head to park at night in front of other cars. I do not know the exact historical date when this happened, but it happened. And I don't know what reasons he (or she) had for doing this: I will be charitable and say it wasn't just that he didn't give one hoot about pissing off other people, he probably meant to wake up early and drive off before the other fellow did.

But next thing you knew other people had followed suit. Next thing you knew, other cars were parked on what ought to have been the open lane, a whole row of them, blocking everything in their path—the cars that were parked on the right slots as well as anybody coming in or out. I kept complaining about this, especially after I found myself blocked a couple of times early in the morning while in a powerful hurry and gave the fellows (one was a woman), who had to be roused from sleep and who took their sweet time coming down, a great big piece of my mind. To no avail.

After a while, the madness began to have method. People who parked that way were enjoined to keep their cars on neutral so they could be pushed if someone had to get out. None of this of course solved anything. It wasn't merely that it was hard to push a car in the sweltering heat or in driving rain in early morning while you were dressed to the nines hurrying off to meet someone who was not necessarily an attractive woman. Have you tried pushing a car while holding an umbrella in one hand and wondering what you had done to deserve to be punished that way? It was also that there was no space left to push the invading horde into. Every available space was taken.

The recent use of people to untangle the mess simply brings the wrong solution to elaborate levels. The most that can be said for it is that it gives employment. And I'll say this for the hired hands, they are courteous, even cheerful. Well, they have much to be cheerful about. But they do not solve the problem. The solution is simply for people to not park wrongly.

Each time I look at our parking lot, I see the country.

It's the microcosm of it. Each time I look at our parking lot, I have the sensation of looking at the history of the country for the last half century, which is how long I've been on this earth. (And, sweet Jesus, I'm feeling it.) That's all it takes really to make a mess of things, for someone to do something wrong and for others not to mind it. Once that happens, the thing spreads like wildfire, everybody rushing in to do exactly the same thing. And we have a way of spreading wildfires faster than other people. We are a veritable dry forest in the middle of a long hot summer awaiting a spark of lightning or a carelessly tossed cigarette butt. As picking up bad habits go, we'd probably set a record in Guinness.

That's how it is with traffic. I've never ceased to marvel at the speed with which cars, taxis and jeepneys follow the idiot who turns to his left, usurping the opposite lane, during standstills. You'd almost think there was a powerful magnet at his rear end, the way he pulls other vehicles to him without effort. That's how it is with garbage. Someone decides to turn the Pasig River into his personal dump, and before you know it everyone has turned the Pasig River into his personal dump. That's how it is with peace and order, with justice, with governing the country. A cop, judge, or secretary does the crooked thing and before you know it, everybody is doing the crooked thing.

Before you know it, the problem has grown insoluble. Or it has escalated beyond comprehension. You compare the level of corruption before martial law and after, and you'd be amazed by the extent of the pillage we have learned to tolerate. At least before martial law, public officials cringed at being called "buwaya." Today, they take it as a compliment.

Before you know it, people are talking of solutions such as creating a new office run by a traffic or garbage czar, employing more people to run after the corrupt and ungodly, or even appealing to the patriotism of public officials (and media practitioners) to limit their crookedness to a point where it does not greatly harm the country. Which are not unlike our solutions to compel wrongly parked cars to park on neutral and hiring people to untangle what should never have been a tangle in the first place.

And—this is truly the ironic part—before you know it the wrong has become right and the right wrong. Before you know it, you have become the villain by complaining about the iniquity. Before you know it, you have become the unreasonable person for taking exception to something everyone has now accepted as the rule. Before you know it, you have become the person who cannot show *pakikisama* or neighborliness by respecting what everybody now takes to be the norm.

I don't know what we can do about the problems that have already taken on epic proportions. But I sure as heaven know what we can do about new ones, and that is to not allow them to begin at all. That is all it takes for iniquity in this country to riot, for someone to start it. It has a way of pulling in people like cars with magnets in their rear ends.

Now, if I can only do something about the mess in our parking lot...

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

All façade

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE TOUGH posture of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo came into bold relief the other day when she sacked Pastor "Boy" Saycon from his government job, saying that a "strong republic cannot have termites from within."

The sacking of Saycon, secretary general of the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa), followed a series of decisions shaking the pillars of her administration and highlighting new priorities.

Among these are the pushing out of Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. from the Cabinet; the recruitment of Sen. Blas Ople as replacement of Guingona; the "all-out" war on kidnapping in which she directed the new Philippine National Police chief, Hermogenes Ebdane, to crush 21 notorious kidnap gangs; and the relief of seven senior PNP commanders for their failure to curb *jueteng* in their jurisdictions.

But it was in the dismissal of Saycon where she explicitly linked the action to her desire to build a "strong republic"—or a strong Philippine state.

The President said a strong leader is not a "wimp" who can be swayed by "histrionics," apparently referring to Copa's attacks on her administration. The test of a strong state lies in its capacity to impose its policies and decisions and make them prevail against resistance by adversaries. Given the pressures bearing on the government, especially the gridlock in the Senate, the state has all the symptoms of a "soft" or "weak" state.

But to single out Saycon and Copa as a demonstration of a republic flexing its muscles does not make for a strong state. The sacking of Saycon is like smashing a troublesome fly—a minor nuisance—with a sledge hammer. She has inflated the threat of Saycon and Copa as "termites" boring into the structure of the state. To put it differently, she built Copa into a straw man and proceeded to flog it.

For all the noise and bluster coming from Copa, that group has been more sound and fury than hard muscle. Copa has tried to make the public believe that it was the main force responsible for the success of ousting former President Estrada. The fact is that Copa was only one of the players in the broad-based movement to remove Estrada. Copa tried to recruit support inside the military for an even more ambitious plot on Estrada—i.e., a coup—but its efforts received hospitable reception only up to the level of deputy regional commanders, mainly in Luzon.

The military chain of command and the strategic commanders rallied behind then chief of staff, Gen. Angelo Reyes, in his decision to withdraw support for Estrada.

In cracking down on Saycon, the President served notice to the noisy civil society groups, who were part of the Estrada-resign movement, that they cannot browbeat her and that she calls the shots. No matter how obnoxious and self-righteous some civil society groups have been, they are not really the termites or the threats to the state nor are they the enemies of the state.

The most corrosive element undermining the state and the Macapagal administration flows from her flawed political decisions in trying to assert the authority of her administration and control the anarchic forces in Philippine society.

In trying to break the impasse in the Senate—the prime example of a paralyzing impasse that has gripped the political life of this nation—the President is seeking a new coalition drawing from mercenaries and turncoats of the former administration.

If her coalition with the resign-Estrada movement is now disintegrating because of the disenchantment of some of its members with her political management, a new coalition underpinned by the cross-over of functionaries closely associated with Estrada is even more fragile than her coalition that is breaking apart.

The President is trying to win new allies with dubious loyalty, and even more questionable credentials for helping her deliver good governance, but in doing so, she is losing her former political partners and even making them enemies.

In the unceremonious eviction of Guingona from the Cabinet, for example, the blunder was sought to be rectified by recruiting Ople to the Cabinet, in the belief that his appointment would deprive the opposition of a single vote that could break the Senate impasse. But if one carefully considers the arithmetic of the deadlock, a shift to the administration by Ople is clearly not the solution. It would not break the impasse, nor would it deliver to the administration the numbers that would ensure a stable coalition. In short, Ople is a non-starter and delivering the Department of Foreign Affairs to him will neither lift the impasse nor ensure a consistent and cohesive foreign policy.

The President and some of her advisers thought Guingona was a pushover, but the backlash from his resignation has revealed that he has a significant constituency that has been alienated by the President.

The disarray in the President's political establishment is a glaring illustration of weakness in her administration and in the Philippine state, stumbling from one shock to the next as she blunders her way into gaining control of the political agenda.

She can launch "all-out" wars on crime and shake up the PNP, and send the criminal gangs on the run—as she did the Abu Sayyaf—but these campaigns are merely police action. She may succeed in impressing on civil society that she cannot be cowed by its rambunctious members. But she is at the same time displaying weakness when she seeks to build a new coalition in the Senate based on the shifting sands of political opportunism.

The pillars of a strong republic or a strong state must necessarily be based on strong institutions, rather than on turncoats, but what she is offering is the appearance of toughness. This is all façade.

Family values and a dancer's tribute

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THERE was more than enough reason to tear up toward the end of "Falsettos," the new musical staged every Friday and Saturday until Aug. 3 at the Music Museum by the New Voice Company.

After all, a man was dying of AIDS, his lover and their friends and family had gathered in his hospital room, and there was a Bar Mitzvah going on. But the line that brought tears to my eyes was not about the dying man, but about the boy. And it was sung by his father, the dying man's lover.

The line went something like: When did you grow into the man you have become? And in that line was distilled every parent's pained wonder at the passing of years, at how swiftly children grow out of their childhood and into their own persons, astonishing us with the wisdom they managed to collect despite our own failings, fallibility and fears.

At the start of "Falsettos," a Tony Award-winning musical by James Lapine and William Finn, Jason is troubled by fears about his own sexuality. His father Marvin has left his mother Trina to live with his male lover, Whizzer. And Jason can't help wondering: If my father is gay, will I grow up to be gay, too?

The situation is complicated by Marvin's expectations that his "choice" will not change his life in any way, or that his family would not be rocked by the aftershocks he left in his wake. Or as he sings: "I want a tight-knit family/I want a group that harmonizes/I want my wife and kid and friend/To pretend/Time will mend/Our pain."

Life, of course, fails to oblige Marvin and proves messier than he would want it to be, even as the people around him—son, wife, lover and even shrink—try their best to cope with the way their lives have changed.

* * *

AS the gay couple whose tempestuous relationship throws everyone else into a tizzy, Jake Macapagal (Marvin) and Joel Trinidad (Whizzer) carry the musical with astonishing energy and commitment. Trinidad is particularly impressive in the hospital room scene, singing with heartbreaking insouciance that, after all, "you gotta die sometime." But the most interesting performer to watch was Joshua Ramirez as Jason, and mainly because in his understated approach to his role, he captured perfectly the pose of indifference and sullen resentment that pre-teens adopt as an armor against the world and their rapidly evolving bodies. At first, I was bothered by Joshua's deadpan delivery, but as the musical wore on, I was relieved to be spared the mugging and emoting of a more "show-biz" type of child actor.

Lyn Sherman (Trina) and Rito Asilo, as the psychiatrist Mendel who ends up marrying Trina, provided the manic energy in the musical's zanier numbers, such as Trina's show-stopping ode to having a breakdown.

Compared to NVC's edgier efforts, "Falsettos" is "safe" entertainment. It's actually a "feel-good" musical no matter its controversial subject. The approach seems deliberate, tackling such matters as sexuality, sexism, social convention, relationships and family values in numbers that range, in the words of director Andrew Vergara, "from the ridiculous to the sublime," refusing to sink into pathos and blather. Even if, without warning, some members of the audience are driven to tears of recognition and empathy.

* * *

WITHOUT a doubt, modern dance is Ballet Philippines' strong suit. This was driven home during the gala night of "Joie de Danse," which opened BP's 33rd season and doubled as a tribute to Cecile Sicangco, BP principal dancer, who was retiring from the company after 25 years of stellar dancing. "Joie de Danse" was also BP's contribution to the "French Spring in Manila," featuring the works of innovative French choreographers Claude Brumachon, Radha, Lionel Hoche and Guillaume Compain. Compain not only performed in "Feline" by Brumachon, but also presented the world premier of his "Eden," performed by Sicangco and Irish Abejero. A special guest dancer was Ernest Sarino Mandap, who used to dance with BP and is now a member of the Centre Choreographique National de Nantes, Brumachon's company.

The evening was certainly a showcase for Sicangco and BP's company of strong and supple young dancers. The company members, particularly Ardee Dionisio, Judell de Guzman, Christine Crame and Abejero, were especially impressive in "Les Petits Mots D'Amour (Little Words of Love)" by Redha. It was a feast for the senses, what with the soaring music that combined opera and avante garde, the stunning costumes in rich jewel colors, and the breathtaking acrobatics that conveyed breathless passion.

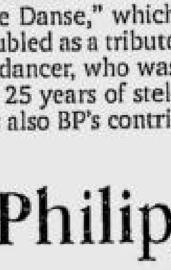
* * *

BUT the evening, properly, belonged to Sicangco, who mystified the audience why she was retiring when she proved conclusively that night that she was still in top form. "Mom, look at how flat her tummy is!" exclaimed my daughter as Sicangco held her own with the company members in her bare midriff costume in "Petite Piece D'Exterieur (A Little Bit of the Outside)" by Hoche.

Giving "Le Petits Mots D'Amour" a good run for my favorite number was Compain's "Eden," beguiling with its otherworldly music, exquisitely lit set and its story of creation. The choreography gave Sicangco a chance to display her gifts as a dancer, by turns sinuous and sensual, lyrical and physical.

At the show's end, with Sicangco taking center stage, BP's company members approached, each handing her a rose to make up a bouquet, followed in turn by BP and Cultural Center officials, then followed by former BP dancers, including husband Jin Ibarrola who sprang out of a box, all in tribute to a dancer and teacher who has made a difference.

Developing a sense of Philippine history



LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THIS year the Philippine-American Educational Foundation that administers the Fulbright exchange program is sending 52 Filipinos to the United States for study, research, or lecturing. Most encouraging is that 32 fellows will be taking advanced studies in agriculture which is a field the country sorely needs. Early this week, the fellows braved the rains to attend a two-day pre-departure orientation that included a talk on US visas and the minor inconveniences they might experience following tighter security in the United States after the events of "9/11" For some strange reason Dr. Alex Calata, PAEF director, placed me on the program with a difficult topic, "Developing a Sense of Philippine History." While the topic was not totally out of place, I felt the fellows were more concerned with the irritating pre-departure details of their Fulbright grants—packing, visas, *pasalubongs*, and preparations for a long absence from the Philippines that meant assigning someone to feed the goldfish, water the plants, or mind the parents who will be left at home. Why bother with Philippine history at this point?

One good thing about the Fulbright program though is that the fellows are not forced to sing and dance where they will be affiliated. In other exchange programs, especially those that leave in groups, participants are made to bring Philippine costume—barong Tagalog for the men, some sort of kimona for the women—as the first step in some "cultural" program where the Pinoys are made to sing and dance for the host country. It doesn't matter if you cannot keep a tune. They don't care if you dance with two left feet as long as you don't get your feet crushed by the bamboo poles during *tinikling*. I've always wondered though why the repertoire is limited to low-land Christian songs, dances and music. Perhaps it's too complicated to bring gongs, nose flutes and other indigenous instruments abroad. Besides, a barong will hide all the unwanted bulges on my body unlike the revealing *bahag*.

Fulbright fellows are spared this humiliation and the closest they get to sharing Philippine culture would probably be by giving an informal talk about our country and its history; it can be cooking a pot of *adobo* for a potluck meal, or being made to say a few sentences in Filipino so they can listen to the sound of our language. Sometimes, they are asked for basic phrases, greetings, and, of course, one or two obscene words. During their course of study or research they will surely be asked about President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the Burnhams and the Abu Sayyaf.

Developing a sense of Philippine history is essential to anyone going to the United States. Whether you are on a Fulbright grant, a tourist, or a "TNT," a sense of Philippine history or at least a sense of being Filipino comes when homesickness sets in. This is clearly felt in the mind, in the palate, in the heart. Though not necessarily in that order. You feel Pinoy in the land of burgers and potatoes when you begin to pine for *tuyo*, *longganisa* or *tinapa*. To cope, I learned to make my own *tocino* and *tapa*. My mother even taught us how to simulate *sinigang* with lemons and tomatoes. I also learned how to recycle blood sausages into passable *dinuguan*. Now there are instant mixes to make expatriate Pinoys feel at home. Even our heroes in the late 19th century related eating lechon and rice with their hands in Paris in 1889. Juan Luna's mother-in-law brewed her own *patis*. Studying in Europe Jose Rizal was sent a regular supply of pickled mangoes and pancit noodles.

In the United States you also realize that part of our palate has a strong American influence to it. I was surprised once when someone took out Spam, Vienna sausages and corned beef from a pantry and paired it with fried egg and *sinangag*, this brought me a taste of home. In canned Spam, Vienna sausage and corned beef, one realizes that at some point the Philippines and the United States have a shared history. As a historian, I am more sensitive to Philippine connections but often these can be found in the most unexpected places. At the University of Indiana at Bloomington, for example, one of the student dorms had, I can't remember now, an Osias or a Bocobo wing. The students didn't notice it but I realized these were the *pensionados* or scholars sent to the United States at the turn of the last century.

In one backroom in the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, I was shown a bronze plaque that said something like "In memory of William Jones, anthropologist, murdered by Ilongots...while doing research for the Field Museum." Definitely a Philippine connection I did not relish. I reacted to the word "murdered" and the curator of the Asia section replied, "if you are mugged and murdered in our city maybe your government will place a plaque there to commemorate your sacrifice in the field of historical research." Also, in architectural walking tours of Chicago I noticed a Bataan street and kept hearing the name Daniel Burnham who did a blueprint for Manila and Baguio. It thus struck me that this was the same guy immortalized in Burnham Park, Baguio. Developing a sense of Philippine history may be difficult for non-historians, but if one is keen on finding Philippine artifacts or connections abroad, that is the first step in the proverbial journey of a thousand miles.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Socialism with an open mind

COMMENTARY

Natalia M.L.M. Morales

BEIJING—After the World Trade Organization, China has increased a distinct and refreshing open stance. Outsiders who visit or return from one are amazed at how much has been achieved in such a short time since 1979 following the directives of the Central Committee. Under Deng Xiao Ping's vision and leadership, mobilization and modernization of China's productive forces were intensified. The result is an ongoing socialist transition that is unprecedented. Drastic changes in China's economy, politics and culture are already in place. More adjustments are being made in the society including "pluralization"—a variety of peoples' interests have multiplied in two decades.

The China Association of International Friendly Contact, a private organization that supports China's Ministry of Foreign Relations in international affairs, gave us (with colleagues from the UP Asian Center) the opportunity early last month to closely observe China's socialist transformation. Dr. Mario Miclat and Prof. Aileen Baviera, the Philippines' noted China experts, have a sharp sense of such transformation having stayed there for a number of years in the 1980s (Aileen studied Chinese for two years at Beijing University while Mario with his family lived in Beijing for 16 years).

But even for those whose memory of China is a quick week-long tour before the 1989 Tienanmen incident, the changes are so dramatic.

Model in world modernization

While not in the genre of an economic miracle, the Chinese people themselves feel great pride in what they have done, opening up to the world and benefiting from "globalization." But one should not be misled by a perceptible capitalist "streak." Prof. Yin Juzuo, president of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, has summarized the features of China's ongoing social transition in his paper "Ideology in A Transitional Society." First is the dual transformation of both the economic system and the social structure rarely seen in the modernization of other countries. Second is the motive force of both the government and the market where success is determined by their balance and combination. This in turn makes it a model in world modernization. Third is a two-tiered urbanization characterized by the expansion and upgrade of original cities and more importantly, pulling and creating new towns in the countryside. The fourth is the negative condition of socialist transformation. This refers to several imbalances such as uneven development between the coastal regions and the hinterlands, between urban and rural areas, between different industries of the economy, and between the economic and the social sector.

From the statistics of economic growth for the past 20 years, these negative conditions have not dampened China's progress. The same paper notes that China's annual GDP growth rate reached nearly 10 percent (9.7) making 20 years of reform and opening up—the fastest growth in its history. Over this period the living standards of the people steadily improved, over-all strength of the country increased and the whole nation was noted for it newly found vigor and upbeat mood. Private entrepreneurship has grown by leaps and bounds. People employed in the non-state owned sector grew to 100 million, outnumbering those in the state sector for the first time. Over the same period, market-priced goods grew to 92.8 percent of total consumers' products. Capital goods and farm produce also posted significant increases but not as much as consumer goods.

China's plural society under a socialist framework is evident in various mass organizations that have grown rapidly with the deepening and progress of China's economic reform and opening. Presently, there are 1,800 national and officially registered mass organizations. But 200,000 are registered at the local levels. In Shanghai alone, public organizations reach 3,000 while private ones number 13,000. New economic organizations count the most at 83,000. All these data show the great freedom the Chinese citizens now have in terms of more and available channels to participate in social activities and decision-making.

"Floating Population"

Noting the disparity of development in the coastal cities and the hinterland, China's "floating population" now exceeds 120 million, or 10 percent of its total population. This means the biggest migrants in China are its own people. Similarly, its tourism is locally generated with 644 million travelers in 1997, compared to 5 million foreign travelers on personal and business missions. The social and geographical mobilization has clearly resulted in pluralization and greater leisure. When the five-day workweek started in 1995, people began to enjoy more leisure and their pastimes have become more colorful and creative. Travel,. parties, bodybuilding, videoke and nightlife programs are ordinary experiences now for the modern Chinese. It could very well be that these are most familiar to visiting foreigners.

In the week of our visit, the China Daily published on its front page a wedding party in the Beijing Aquarium where a sea lion was the "best man" to a couple who both love sea life! The lifestyle and mind-set of young people in mainstream and highly developed economies are readily adopted by the youth of China in modern cities. In an interactive forum we had at the American Studies Center at the Fudan University, we were struck at how differently the Philippines is perceived by many of the students. Comments like the Philippines being a "jungle," a "hot country" and terrorism were expressed. The universities we visited in the three cities of Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen invariably have institutes of international studies where American studies and research are prominent programs. Yet, we have sensed some degree of tentativeness, if not apprehension, as to the US role in the region. Taiwan is its major security issue. We found ourselves explaining the rationale and dynamics of the "*balikatan*" exercises within the provisions of the Visiting Forces Agreement in various fora.

Socialist China in transition

Social plurality, opening up new types of ownership and patterns of distribution, have greatly enhanced the freedom and choices of different interest groups. The socio-economic trends have clearly promoted modern China's economic progress. But its socialist orientation makes it alert to the negative trends as well. This includes the competition between international capital and commodities and domestic enterprises. The society confronts waves of instability because of the interplay of old and new forces. Among the latter are rapid social mobility, variety of interest groups, more intense social conflicts and relations and a weakened social control. The WTO entry posts another benchmark where these forces will rise to a higher level and meaning.

Despite these changes and new challenges, the role of socialism in China has not waned. But it is socialism with an open mind and perhaps, a more humane outlook. Those of political and intellectual leadership we met realize the need for a great socialist adjustment. Ironically, the term "ideological control" is used. It means not that "everyone speaks with one voice." Rather, it is more a freedom of choice, although some militant Chinese exercise independent thought as the Falungong movement has shown. Freedom of choice is as much a part of socialist guidelines for these modern times.

Natalia M.L.M. Morales is professor of International Studies and Political Science at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Key areas in the development of the ICT industry

THIS is in response to an article published last July 3, 2002 regarding the government's efforts in promoting the information and communication technology (ICT) industry.

I would like to clarify certain misconceptions regarding the Philippines' ICT capabilities and the government's efforts to promote the ICT industry in the country.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has identified four key areas within the ICT which it has targeted to promote: (1) customer contact centers, (2) business process outsourcing (BPO), (3) software development, and (4) content development. BPOs are the back office operations of multinationals that provide finance, accounting, human resource and other services for their regional or global offices. Content development refers to activities such as animation and data transcription/conversion.

The four areas are listed in the order of priority based on a determination of potential, readiness, and competitive advantage. I acknowledge the article's claim that call centers have been prioritized by the DTI. However, I dispute the claim that the choice is wrong.

It is a misconception to consider the call center industry as low-end with little value-added. On the contrary, the type of call center activity that is being done in the Philippines focuses more on the high-end and more complicated part of the business.

Philippine call centers do not cater too much to the directory assistance type of operation, which are considered to be the low-end of this business. Philippine call centers are currently doing financial work, level 3 helpdesk and other similar services which require very well-educated agents to handle them. The skills required of these agents, in many cases, exceed those required of programmers. For example, some of the call center agents had to be trained in the United States to take and pass the Series 6 and 7 exams which are required by US Law for anyone dealing in securities with customers.

The call center industry also happens to be one of the areas where Philippine operations are truly world class. Right now, Philippine call centers are considered as giving the best value for money anywhere in the world. Thus, it is imperative for the Philippines to promote this industry as best as we can while the conditions are ripe for us to take advantage of it.

So far, the Philippines has been successful in attracting ICT investors to the country. Close to 30 call centers are now operating in the Philippines doing mostly inbound calls. There are 13 companies offering shared financial services, 42 companies are presently engaged in software development, 38 in engineering design, 13 in animation, and 14 in data transcription.

The Board of Investments (BOI) and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) have approved more than P3.1 billion worth of investments for the first five months of the year, with more than 10,740 jobs to be generated from these investments. Of the projects approved from January to May 2002, six are call centers, 13 are software development projects, two in engineering design and one each for animation and shared services. The others are involved in cyber retailing, data entry services, learning institutions, digital music production and electronic data discovery. Since last year, a total of P17 billion was infused to the Philippine economy by the ICT industry.

I hope this can help clarify some issues regarding the ICT industry and the government's drive in promoting such.

—GREGORY L. DOMINGO, undersecretary, Industry and Investments Group, and BOI managing head, Department of Trade and Industry, 4/F Industry and Investments Bldg., 385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Increase in SSS contributions unnecessary

THE SOCIAL Security System (SSS) is planning to increase the current 8.4 percent contribution rate of both employer and employee to 16 percent, as recommended by John Haley, president and executive officer of Watson Wyatt Worldwide, a leading American consultancy firm.

But why should we follow the recommendations of foreign consultants? There is no need to heed the advice of Haley because according to SSS president Corazon dela Paz, the SSS earned P23.3 billion from its operations during the first six months of 2001, making the institution one of the best performing agencies around.

Besides, when the SSS was established in 1957, the prevailing minimum wage was only P4 a day. At a rate of 8.4 percent, the employer and employee contributed only 33 centavos a day. Now that the daily minimum wage is P285, the combined contribution amounts to P23.94 per day for minimum wage earners, and much higher for salaried employees who earn more.

There is really no need to increase the present contribution rate of 8.4 percent to 16 percent. Instead, why doesn't the SSS reduce the fat salaries of its officials and employees?

—ELIGIO M. PASTORIN, 92 Paraiso St., Marikina City

No interest in furthering his political career

THIS refers to the announcement contained in your Lifestyle section's "Goings On" column last June 21, 2002 on Page C2, stating that a group identified as "Sen. Noli de Castro, Independent Party, for Vice President Movement in 2004" will be holding its first strategic planning management on June 22-23, 2002 in my office at the Philippine Senate in Pasay City.

I would like to deny any involvement in the advertisement. Nor do I have any knowledge of who caused the publication of such. Records will reveal that never have I shown even the slightest interest in furthering my political career in 2004. In fact, I have been consistent in my stand that there is as yet much work to be accomplished in the Senate and that politicking in light of the 2004 presidential elections is against public interest and general welfare.

The INQUIRER is one of the most respected publications in the country. Thus, I believe that your newspaper did not have any intention to take part in this attempt to deceive the public. In order to avoid similar instances from happening again, we are always open for verification and clarification of any issue pertaining to any activity of our office.

Again, I reiterate that neither I nor any of my staff in the Senate are in any way connected with the group that is behind the publication of that advertisement.

—SEN. NOLI DE CASTRO, 5/F Rm. 517, Senate of the Philippines, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Case already with the ERC

THIS pertains to the letter last July 8, 2002 regarding the alleged collection of currency adjustment by the Public Utilities Department (PUD) of Olongapo City.

That matter is already with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) docketed as ERC Case No. 2002-147 and the PUD has submitted its comment on April 11, 2002.

The PUD has always lived up to its commitment to the citizens of Olongapo City in providing reliable services. We have complied with the rules and regulations of the Energy Regulatory Commission while considering the economic status and financial capability of our consumers. In fact, back in 1996, the Energy Regulatory Board (ERB) approved a 10-centavo rate increase which we did not pass on to our consumers.

—JULIE U. REYES, general manager, Public Utilities Department, Olongapo City

Making our children's electronic childhood safer

THE COMMENTARY of Belinda A. Aquino ("Sex online," PDI, 7/7/02) that "pedophilia and other forms of predatory sexual behavior are not the monopoly of the priestly caste. It's a national epidemic. It's all over on the Great Internet" only confirms the dark side of the Internet.

There is no question that our children are glued and spend too much time (not to mention hard-earned money) on technological and media products. The real world enlightens us that our children are living in an electronic childhood. E-mail, newsgroups, ICQ (a sound-alike name based on the phrase "I seek you") and the Internet Relay Chat (IRC) are features of the electronic world often odd to adults, but as familiar as the characters of a regular TV animé show to a 10-year-old kid. As things stand, our kids today grow up in much more technology-rich surroundings than their parents had.

As Aquino pointed out, the concerns about the effects of Internet on children are indeed, echoed everywhere, and the emerging issue is sexual exploitation of children on the Internet. This shared worry illustrates the new and less difficult way in which existing sexual offenses and abuses against our children can be perpetuated online.

Protecting our children from these wolves (read: abusers) that tend to pounce on them is the most fundamental thing to do and parents need to be immersed with their children and ought to know what their children are doing online. Teaching children how to handle and conduct themselves "properly" on the Internet is as vital as teaching them how to use the said stuff. Parents, guardians and even adults should ponder about the do's and don'ts, on using the Internet like the Net Smart rules of NCH Action for Children (www.nchafe.org.uk) which campaigns for the protection of children online.

In addition to the rules imparted by Aquino:

1. Never tell anyone you meet on the Internet your home address, telephone number or your school's name, unless your parent or guardian specifically gives you permission.
2. Never hang around in a chat or conference room.
3. If someone says or writes something, which makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, always report it to your parent or guardian.
4. Always be yourself and don't pretend to be anyone.

There are also filtering software packages like CyberPatrol and website-rating schemes developed by the World Wide Web Consortium intended for parents to guide their children surfing the Internet. As Aquino clearly pointed out, parents have great responsibility to "police" their children. Without doubt, our kids already live an electronic childhood. Can we make it a healthy and child-friendly one?

—JERBERT M. BRIOLA, information officer, End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (Ecpat-Philippines), 123 V. Luna Road Ext., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City

Rooting for Zuño

WITH REFERENCE to the column of Raul J. Palabrica last June 30, "Crucial choice of next ombudsman," he and I have the same choice: Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito R. Zuño. If given the chance, I believe Zuño can accomplish his assignment very well indeed, given his sterling performance in prosecution coupled with his untarnished reputation. I pray that he will be appointed ombudsman by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

—FELIPE F. MONTEALTO JR., felipe_fmjr@yahoo.com

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

ELECTRICITY PRICE WATCH

POWER RATES HAVE STARTED TO DECLINE as President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo implements her 10-Point Plan to reduce electricity rates that would give relief to electric consumers.

One of her 10-Point Plan is to:

- REVIEW IPP CONTRACTS TO REDUCE POWER GENERATION COSTS

Why are there IPP Contracts?

IPP contracts helped solve our Power Crisis in the early 1990's. In return, the Government assured payment for the IPPs' minimum generated capacity.

Since 1999, however, we have been experiencing an oversupply of power brought about by the Asian Financial Crisis, which caused the slowdown of the economy and dampened the demand for power.

There is, therefore, a need to review these contracts to determine if we could further reduce the cost of electricity through legally and commercially fair means.

On 4 July 2002, President Arroyo announced the completion of the review of the 35 IPP contracts negotiated in the 1990s.

Nineteen (19) out of the thirty-five (35) contracts passed the review. Of which, six (6) were found to be valid both financially and legally while the remaining thirteen (13) were found to have some remedial financial and policy issues that need to be addressed to assure that the government and the public are not being financially prejudiced.

Sixteen (16) other contracts were found with both legal and financial issues for appropriate study, renegotiation or possible legal action. The contracts were reviewed by an Inter-Agency Review Committee composed of the DOJ, DOF and NEDA.

How can we reduce electricity rates by renegotiating IPP contracts?

- re-align fixed costs to variable costs
- review cost indexation formulas
- modify the terms in the take-or-pay provisions
- extend cooperation periods to reduce the annual capacity fees
- convert build-operate-transfer (BOT) contracts to build-operate-own (BOO) schemes

The Government, however, assures investors that invested capital in the country that the rule of law will be respected.

The Government will initiate a dialogue with the IPPs to seek mutually acceptable solutions that allow them fair returns while we lower our overall cost of electricity and ease the burden to consumers.

WE NOW HAVE THE POWER OF CHOICE, LET US EXERCISE IT.

LET US WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN.

National Power Corporation

For comments or inquiries, call 8401401 local 227: 8402151: Fax: 8401731
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Ailing nation

COMMENTARY

Junefe Gilig Payot
Institute on Church and Social Issues

PAYATAS is home to thousands of skinny children and adults whose whole bodies shake whenever they cough, their economic and health struggles melting into one sad expression on their faces. It is a sight that I cannot get used to even though I have been going to Payatas almost every week for a year now. These people are living, or rather, dying proof of the very sorry state of health of the Filipino people, especially the poor who are four out of every 10 Filipinos.

Here are some of the cold facts: 132 Filipinos die of tuberculosis every day while around 100,000 contract the disease every year; every nine minutes, a child below the age of 15 dies of heart disease; four Filipinos die of cancer every hour. The Filipino is that sick.

It was about this time last year when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in her first State of the Nation Address (Sona), promised to make essential drugs and health care services more accessible to the people especially the poorest segment of the population.

First, she promised to cut the cost of medicines. Her exact words were, "*Bababa.....ang presyo ng gamot. Sa loob ng isang taon, hahatiin natin ang presyo ng gamot na madalas bilhin ng madla* (The price of medicines will go down. Within one year, the price of the most commonly bought medicines will be reduced by half)."

To fulfill this promise, the government, through the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), resorted to parallel importation which is the procurement of the same brand-name product from other countries where it sells at a lower price. They imported drugs from India.

According to the government website that gives updates on the President's Sona promises, drugs most commonly used such as Ventolin (for asthma), Bactrim (an antibiotic for pneumonia and bronchitis), Tenormin and Adalat Retard (both for hypertension), are now available at all Department of Health retained hospitals nationwide.

This is a big help to the poor. Bactrim (800 mg) for instance sells for only P5.10 in DOH hospitals but in private outlets, it sells for P24.10. That's a P19 difference. A 20-mg Adalat Retard capsule on the other hand sells for only P5.75 in DOH hospitals but P34.15 in private drug outlets—a difference of P28.40. The price difference may very well spell the difference between life and death for the sick who are poor.

However, some people fear that the imported products might be substandard. The government must make sure that they are not. Also, other options must also be explored such as encouraging the growth of local drug manufacturers whose products are much lower-priced than the popular drugs manufactured by multinational drug companies. In the long run, this might prove cheaper than parallel importation. Then again, the government must make sure that the products produced by these local manufacturers are of high quality.

The President also promised in her Sona last year to provide health insurance to the poor especially the urban poor. She said, "*Upang maiwasan ang malaking gastos sa pagpapagamot...ilalahok sa* National Health Insurance *ang kalahating milyong maralitang taga-lungsod. Sa (ganitong) paraan, ang* insurance *ang magbabayad ng pagpapagamot.* (To avoid huge expenses for medication, we shall enrol into the National Health Insurance (Program) half a million urban poor. This way, the insurance will pay for medication)."

As of May 2002, about 1,475,330 urban poor beneficiaries or 320,724 families have been enrolled into the National Health Insurance Program. That's a 295 percent accomplishment rate. In the rural areas, 1,722,364 rural poor or 374,427 families have also been enrolled. That's no small feat.

We can only hope that the almost 300-percent enrolment rate into the national health insurance program, is not merely for show. We hope that it really translates to actual improvements in the health of the poor.

The President will soon deliver her second State of the Nation Address. She will certainly boast about her accomplishments. But the question lingers: why do we still see many sick people in Payatas?

Perhaps, it's too early to judge the effects of the government programs. Diseases after all, are not easy to cure.

Or perhaps, there is a need to sincerely focus on the ultimate preventive measure—eradication of poverty which forces people to live in inhuman and unhealthy conditions and denies them access to even the most basic necessities such as safe drinking water. That can take a long time.

Meanwhile, don't let the low-priced drugs run out. And make sure they work.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Watchdog group sues Cheney for fraud

MIAMI—A legal watchdog group on Wednesday sued US Vice President Dick Cheney and the Halliburton oil services company he once ran, alleging they defrauded shareholders by overstating company revenues.

CHENEY

The accounting fraud lawsuit also named as defendants Halliburton's current and former officers and directors and its former accounting firm, Andersen, which audited the company's books until April.

The civil lawsuit was filed by Judicial Watch a day after US President George W. Bush outlined proposals aimed at stopping the accounting scandals that have rocked US financial markets.

In Washington, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said "the suit is without merit, and that's where it stands." Halliburton's chief financial officer, Doug Foshee, said the claims were "untrue, unsupported and unfounded."

Cheney was chief executive of Halliburton, which provides products and services to the energy industry, from 1995 to 2000. The suit alleges he conspired with the other defendants to file false financial statements that misled investors. The company overstated revenues by as much as $445 million over three years, it said.

The Securities and Exchange Commission is investigating how the company accounted for cost overruns on construction jobs.

"Vice President Cheney broke the law," Larry Klayman, chairman of the Washington-based group said in Miami, where he was on unrelated business.

Judicial Watch is an 8-year-old legal foundation that has filed a number of highly publicized lawsuits against government officials.

Described by Klayman as "fiercely nonpartisan but conservative," its targets have included former President Bill Clinton, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Janet Reno, the White House, the State Department, the Pentagon, the FBI and the CIA.

Not all the suits have been successful, but they have earned Klayman a reputation for bringing sensitive documents to public view and for aggressive promotion in the media.

The new suit was filed in US District Court in Dallas, where Halliburton is headquartered, on behalf of two company shareholders.

It did not specify how much money the plaintiffs sought. But Klayman said: "We're seeking millions and millions of dollars . . . It's to punish the people involved."

At issue are long-term construction contracts that allowed Halliburton to negotiate or sue for additional payment if building cost overruns or changes in the construction orders ate into its profits.

In 1998, the company changed its accounting procedures and began listing those disputed claims as revenues even though the clients had not agreed to pay them.

Judicial Watch said the practice violated generally accepted accounting principles and was aimed at masking losses. It also said shareholders should have been told of the change. ***Reuters***

US Senate throws book at company crooks

WASHINGTON—The US Senate threw the book at corporate criminals on Wednesday, responding to multiple white-collar scandals with multiple measures to try to put the culprits in jail on any number of charges.

While debating an accounting reform bill, Republicans and Democrats united to pass amendments to create a new crime of securities fraud and raising to up to 10 years the jail time for existing corporate crimes, including proposals made on Tuesday by President George W. Bush in a Wall Street address.

"These people deserve to go to jail. They've ruined the lives of thousands of people, good people, hard-working people, honest people. They have destroyed much of the confidence in Wall Street," Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat and sponsor of one of the main amendments, said of corporate crooks.

Senators also competed to out-tough each other with their proposals, which were aimed at restoring investor confidence in the wake of scandals from Enron Corp. to WorldCom Inc.—as well as limiting the political fallout on their respective parties.

"The stock market today dropped again today almost 300 points. We need to do something to reestablish confidence in corporate America," said Assistant Majority Leader Sen. Harry Reid, a Nevada Democrat, on Wednesday evening.

Although no one voted against any of the measures, it was far from certain how many would survive an expected conference committee with the House of Representatives on the underlying accounting reform bill by Sen. Paul Sarbanes, a Maryland Democrat.

And it remained to be seen whether the Senate would be so united on the substance of the Sarbanes bill, which sets up a tough new oversight board for an industry that has been largely self-regulating, and limits the consulting services accounting firms can provide their audit clients.

"The message, 'put the crooks in jail' is easy to sell to the public, without having to impose requirements on industry that are opposed by the business community," said Barbara Roper, spokeswoman for the Consumer Federation of America. ***Reuters***

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Besieged US offers new compromise to break impasse over global court

UNITED NATIONS—Under attack from its allies, the United States late on Wednesday introduced a new compromise proposal that would exempt its peacekeepers from prosecution by the world's first permanent criminal court for 12 months.

The American draft resolution, presented to the 15-nation UN Security Council, drops an earlier demand—rejected by most members—that immunity from the International Criminal Court's jurisdiction be automatically renewed every 12 months.

Whether the new proposals will be approved is not yet clear after a day of public debate in which dozens of countries flailed the Bush administration for trying to stand above the law. Washington has threatened to kill all UN peacekeeping missions if its moves against the court were not approved.

British Ambassador Sir Jeremy Greenstock, this month's council president, said he viewed the draft resolution as "a very fair basis for discussion" and that council members would send it to their capitals.

But France's UN ambassador, Jean-David Levitte, told closed council consultations that the resolution was "a step" in the right direction but fell short of getting his country's support, diplomats said. France has threatened an abstention, rather than using its veto power to kill any US proposal.

The United States, Britain, France, Russia and China are permanent council members with veto rights.

The main obstacle, according to many nations, was the sweeping exemption they say misinterprets a 1998 Rome statute creating the court. This allows the Security Council to provide exemptions only on a "case-by-casè" basis.

The Bush administration has threatened to veto all UN peacekeeping missions, starting with UN police and civilian personnel in Bosnia, if its soldiers and civilian personnel were not exempted from the court's jurisdiction. The council has to vote by Monday.

The ICC is the first global permanent tribunal to try individuals for genocide, war crimes and systematic, gross human rights abuses, a belated effort to fulfill the promise of the Nuremberg trials 56 years ago, when Nazi leaders were prosecuted for new categories of war crimes.

The US draft resolution would exclude "investigation or prosecutions" of current or former peacekeeping personnel from a country that had not ratified the treaty creating the court, such as the United States.

The new court came into existence on July 1 and 76 nations have ratified the treaty establishing the tribunal, including all 15 European Union members as well as major African and Latin American nations.

Earlier on Wednesday, Canadian Ambassador Paul Heinbecker organized a public debate so countries could tell Security Council members to reject Washington's position. *Reuters*

REUTERS

SEOUL'S FIRST FEMALE PREMIER

Chang Sang, who was picked as South Korea's first female prime minister on July 11, is seen in this undated handout picture. South Korean President Kim Dae-jung also replaced six other ministers in a reshuffle seen as strengthening his hand ahead of December's presidential polls.

i met Asia's most wanted in Singapore!

AIDS explosion threatens former Soviet states

BARCELONA, Spain—Former Soviet states have the world's fastest growing HIV/AIDS epidemic which threatens to spread from drug users to the wider population, researchers said on Thursday.

Drug users who inject account for 90 percent of HIV cases in the region. But Dr Anna Shakarishvili of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said evidence of an epidemic among non-drug users had raised fears of an AIDS explosion.

"From a small number of cases in 1995, HIV infections have grown so quickly that an estimated one million people in the former Soviet Union are infected with HIV—more than in the US," Shakarishvili told reporters at the International AIDS Conference.

The problem is dwarfed by the crisis in Africa, which has more than 28 million of the 40 million people infected with HIV worldwide.

But Shakarishvili and colleagues from the Russian Association for Sexually Transmitted Infection Prevention found signs of an epidemic among sex workers and the homeless that threatens to spread.

The researchers studied 400 men and women who do not use drugs at homeless detention centers in Moscow. They found that one percent were HIV-positive, compared to 0.18 percent for the whole population.

Thirty percent of the 400 were infected with sexually transmitted diseases like chlamydia and gonorrhoea, which increase the risk of HIV infection.

Over 64 percent of men and 40 percent of women in the study said they had not used a condom the last 10 times they had sex, Shakarishvili said. *Reuters*

US panel finds no single info that could have foiled 9/11

WASHINGTON—Members of the House-Senate intelligence committees investigating the failure of US agencies to uncover the Sept. 11 attack plot say they have not found any single piece of information that could have prevented the attacks, The Washington Post reported on Thursday.

"As far as I know, there is no smoking gun," said Sen. Evan Bayh, an Indiana Democrat and member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Without any evidence pointing to a single intelligence breakdown, the panel is working on identifying and fixing problems in the US intelligence system, members told the newspaper.

One of the main criticism of US security agencies has been that they failed to share intelligence among themselves and that there might have been information, if properly analyzed, that would have allowed the United States to prevent the attacks, which destroyed the World Trade Center in New York, damaged the Pentagon and killed about 3,000 people.

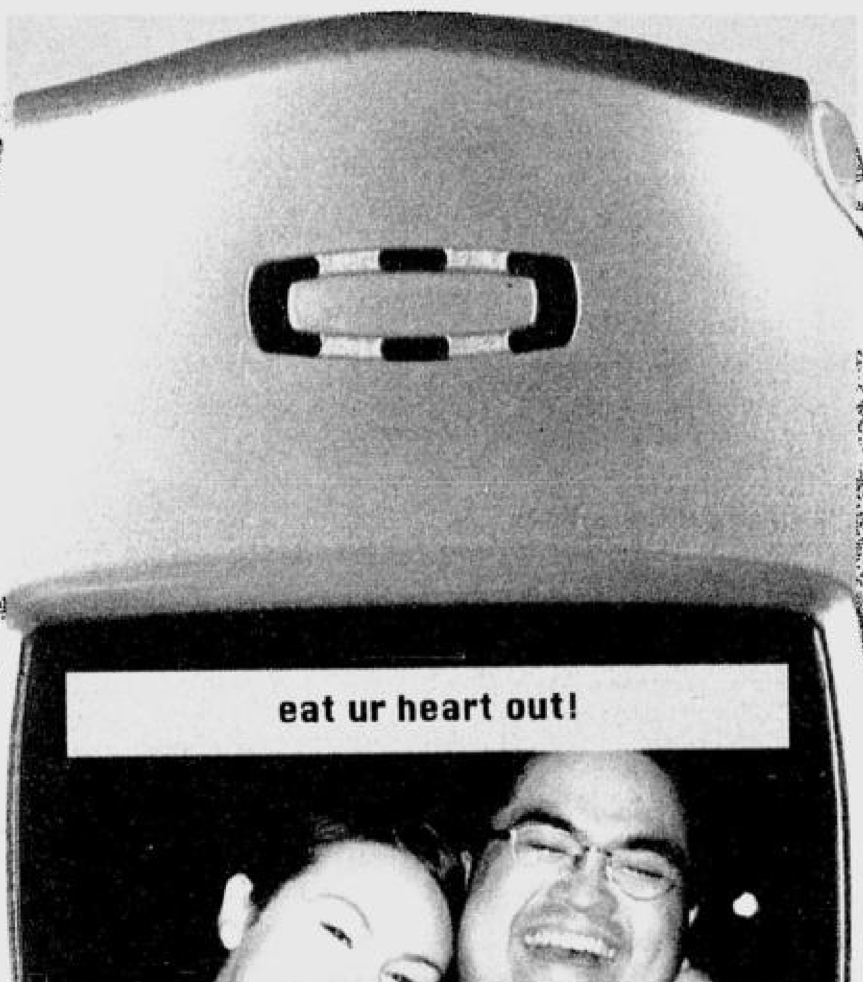
From what their investigation has uncovered so far, panel members have concluded that knowledge of no one piece of information could have prevented the attacks, the newspaper said.

"Weve spent the first couple of weeks on where we've been," Bayh said. "Now we need to pivot and focus on where we need to go. I hope we're in the process of shifting from a place where people were looking to assign blame and instead focusing on systemic problems and improvements."

However, some committee members cautioned that the investigation is not over and that some revealing memo, cable or intercept could still be uncovered, the newspaper said.

"It would be nice to find a smoking gun," said Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, the ranking Republican on the Senate panel. "But absent that, we're looking for problems that need to be solved."

Shelby told the Post he still expects to find "a lot of pieces of information that, had they been correlated, analyzed and disseminated, you could have had a different outcome." *Reuters*



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Messages

I extend my cordial greetings to the management and staff of TORO MOTORS CORPORATION on your Zongshen Motorcycle Products Launching.

Your investment is vital to our country's economic growth and to our aspiration for sustainable development. The time, money, and effort that you invested are gestures of your confidence in the economic, social, and political stability of our country. It also recognizes the competence, reliability, and diligence of the Filipino workers.

I, therefore, welcome and appreciate the presence and dynamic participation of the TORO MOTORS CORPORATION and the CHONGQING ZONGSHEN GROUP in the Philippines' expanding market.

Let us continue to work together in reinforcing our national aspiration for sustained development, prosperity, and a better life for the Filipino people.

MABUHAY!

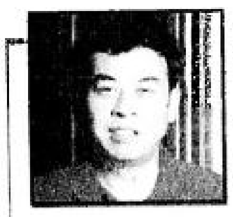
Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines

Our warmest greetings and sincere congratulations to the management and staff of TORO MOTORS CORPORATION on the forging of your exclusive distributorship agreement with the CHONGQING ZONGSHEN GROUP I/E CORPORATION (CZGC) of the People's Republic of China - that would pave the way for the Philippines to serve as the CZGC's regional base for its offshore operations.

The presence and participation in the Philippine business by the ZONGSHEN GROUP - which is one of the largest motorcycle manufacturing companies in the world - through its partnership with Toro Motors - sends a strong signal of confidence to the international business community that the Philippines is, indeed, a feasible platform for overseas operations. Thus, we definitely look forward for the success of this TORO MOTORS-ZONGSHEN GROUP partnership as this would serve as a shining testimony to what Filipino-Chinese collaboration in trade and industrial investments can achieve for the mutual benefit of our two economies.

To TORO MOTORS CORPORATION and the ZONGSHEN GROUP I/E CORPORATION, we convey our best wishes for the success of your collaboration, which we are confident, would significantly contribute towards creating a more prosperous and progressive Philippine motorcycle development sector.

Mar Roxas
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry



In behalf of CHONGQING ZONGSHEN GROUP, let me convey our warmest felicitations to TORO MOTORS CORPORATION on its grand launching of Zongshen Motorcycle products in the Philippines.

This partnership with TORO MOTORS CORPORATION firms up our decision to establish our Regional Central Office in the Philippines as we expand our offshore operations in Southeast Asia.

We not only saw that the Philippines is an ideal location, but we believe in the business potentials of the country. Coupled with our faith in the competencies of TORO MOTORS CORPORATION, it is with conviction that our partnership will continue to flourish. This linkage after all, is founded on mutual trust, integrity, sound business principles, equity, justice, and fairness.

Again, I congratulate TORO MOTORS CORPORATION with pride and pleasure.

Zuo Zongshen
Founder and Chairman
Chongqing Zongshen Motorcycle
Science and Technology Group Company Limited

Our spirit of resiliency lives on instinctively, especially in the midst of austerity. This is the spirit that fuels our drive to emerge victorious against the challenges of time.

And the challenges of time are aplenty. But we can not afford to succumb to these forces, lest we lose grip on our ideals of espousing fair prosperity and equal opportunity.

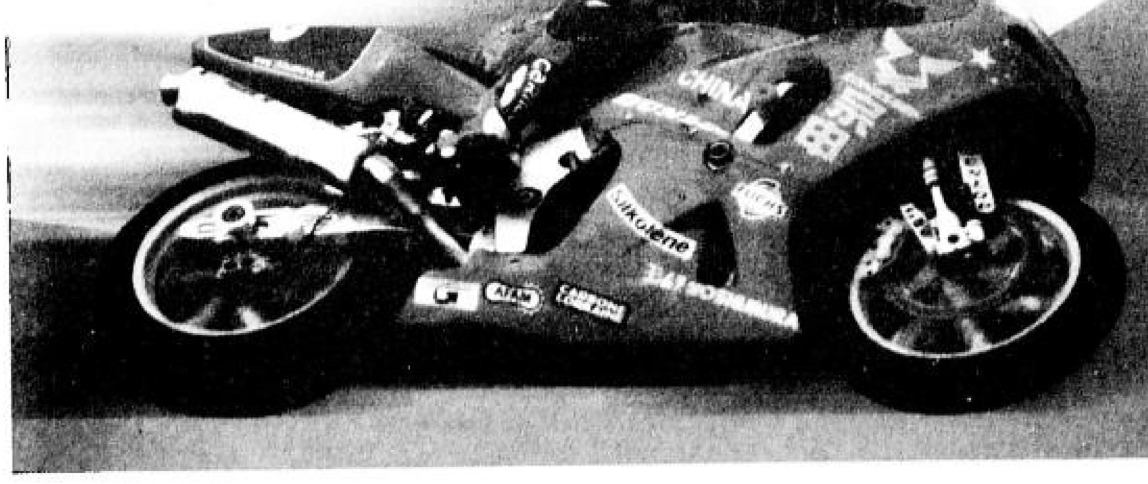
This is the philosophy that TORO MOTORS CORPORATION has been championing. The market is a competitive sphere, and there is always room for anybody in this playing field. As we introduce Zongshen Motorcycles in the Philippine market - under exclusive distributorship of TORO MOTORS CORPORATION - we are earnest on our principles of quality, professionalism and excellence as the ingredients of our products and services. Our catch phrase: commitment to quality.

With this as our guiding rectitude, we believe we are doing our share of providing fairness and equal opportunity to the consuming market, the essence of free enterprise.

Our partnership with CHONGQING ZONGSHEN GROUP, is also our humble contribution to the government's effort of strengthening international relationships and linkages. In this age of technological revolution, our country needs ventures that responds positively, not only for the economy, but more importantly for goodwill and humanity.

In behalf of TORO MOTORS CORPORATION, let me convey my greetings of solidarity and goodwill to you all!

Adelbert W. Antonino
Chairman and President
Toro Motors Corporation



The Zongshen Group: All Geared Up for a New Market in the Philippines

The motorcycle industry in the country is already replete with players who are out to take the challenge to become the leader. However, this doesn't mean that there is no more room for other players to make its own mark. One company, which has set a clear vision for itself—to be the "leader of the motorcycle industry, a first-class enterprise in China and the ever-flourishing enterprise of the world"—is now in full gear to create their own mark in the Philippines. The group is the Zongshen Motorcycle Group, one of the world's largest motorcycle manufacturing companies.

It recently made its formal entry into the country through a partnership with a newly-formed company in the Philippines, Toro Motors Corporation, as exclusive distributor of the world-class motorcycles in the Philippines.

Known as the Zongshen Group, the Chongqing Zongshen Motorcycle Science and Technology Group Company Limited was founded in 1992 with Mr. Zuo Zongshen as president, who is also an elected representative of the Chinese National Congress, a member of CPPCC of Chongqing municipality and has been awarded as the "Outstanding Private Enterpriser" of the People's Republic of China.

Fueled by its desire to be the leader in the industry, the group has established operations of wide scope, with the creation of other company arms such as a first-class new product exploration and testing center, a sales company with worldwide network, an import and export company and an after-sales service company.

With a combined strength of 24-sub companies, one share-holding company, 33 associated companies and 36 cooperated companies found in Beijing, Shandong, Guangdong and Zhejiang in China and in Hongkong, the USA, Indonesia, Vietnam, South Korea, Cambodia, the group has amassed total assets amounting to 2 Billion RMB.

It has already achieved its goal to become a first-class enterprise in China, having ranked 11th in the 500 Outstanding Private Enterprises in China in 2000. The Zongshen Motorcycle Group is considered as one of China's pride companies and has been ISO certified. Annually, the company produces a staggering 1 million motorcycle units through the collected efforts of close to 18,000 highly-skilled men and women in its employ.

The sales value of the Group has exceeded 10 million US Dollars in 1999, and 40 million US Dollars in 2000. In April 2001, the Zongshen Group went into a joint venture with the American Briggs & Stratton Company and resulted into the Chongqing Zongshen Briggs & Stratton Motorcycle Engine Co. Ltd., with a total investment of 114.8 million USD. The plant is situated in the Zongshen Industrial Park in Chongqing.

The Products

The group produces a variety of thermal internal combustion engine products, including motorcycle engines, mini-automobile engines, high-speed boat engines and general-purpose engines. At present, Zongshen Group has an annual production capacity of 2 million motorcycle engines, 300 thousand mini-automobile engines, 20 thousand high-speed boat engines, 500 thousand general-purpose engines, 1 million assembled motorcycles, 2 thousand high-speed boats, and 500 thousand other mechanical devices. The products of Zongshen Group have been exported to over 50 countries and districts in Asia, Africa, Europe and America. The "Zongshen" trademark has been registered in 34 countries.

The standards employed by the group in the manufacture of every product are of high and world-class rate: the emission standards of Zongshen motorcycles comply with the Euro II norms. The Zongshen out-board engine has been put into the National Innovation Project and ZS 152YMI water-cooling engine has been put into National Torch Project in 2001.

The Zongshen Racing Team

Zongshen's commitment to producing quality products has been proven further by its entry into world motorcycle racing, the Zongshen Motorcycle Racing Team. In 2000, it was selected as one of the Top Ten Teams in the World Motorcycle Championship. It also won the National Endurance Race in Japan in August 2001.

The Zongshen Motorcycle Racing Team is the only Chinese team that has attended the World Race.

It topped the list in 2 race categories: the 125 CC and 750 CC races in the 47th Grand Prix Motorcycle Championship. It also won second place in the World Motorcycle Tournament for a 6-hour Endurance Race held in Czechoslovakia.

New Doors in the Philippine Market

The company opened its first showroom in the Philippines on the Ground Floor of the G.E. Antonino Building on the corner of T.M. Kalaw and Bocobo Sts. in Ermita, Manila last May 3.

Toro Motors Corporation has been granted the exclusive right to import and distribute motorcycles from Mainland China.

Commitment to Quality

With its entry into the Philippine market, Toro Motors Corporation adheres to Zongshen Group's commitment to deliver superior after-sales service. To assure quality, it guarantees to replace sold Zongshen Motorcycle units that are found to have mechanical defects.

Notice of Appointment

THE CHONGQING ZONGSHEN GROUP
of the People's Republic of China

is pleased to announce the appointment of:

Toro Motors Corporation

as the exclusive distributor/dealer of
ZONGSHEN brand and other brands of motorcycles
of CHONGQING ZONGSHEN MOTORCYCLE GROUP
in the Philippines, consisting of motorcycles, scooters,
spare parts and accessories.

Zuo Zongshen
Chairman
Chongqing Zongshen Group

Notice of Acceptance

Toro Motors Corporation

is deeply honoured to accept its appointment as the
exclusive distributor in the Philippines of all Chongqing
Zongshen Group products, by

THE CHONGQING ZONGSHEN GROUP
of the People's Republic of China

Adelbert W. Antonino
Chairman
Toro Motors Corporation

SHOWROOM: G/F G.E. Antonino Bldg., J. Bocobo St.,
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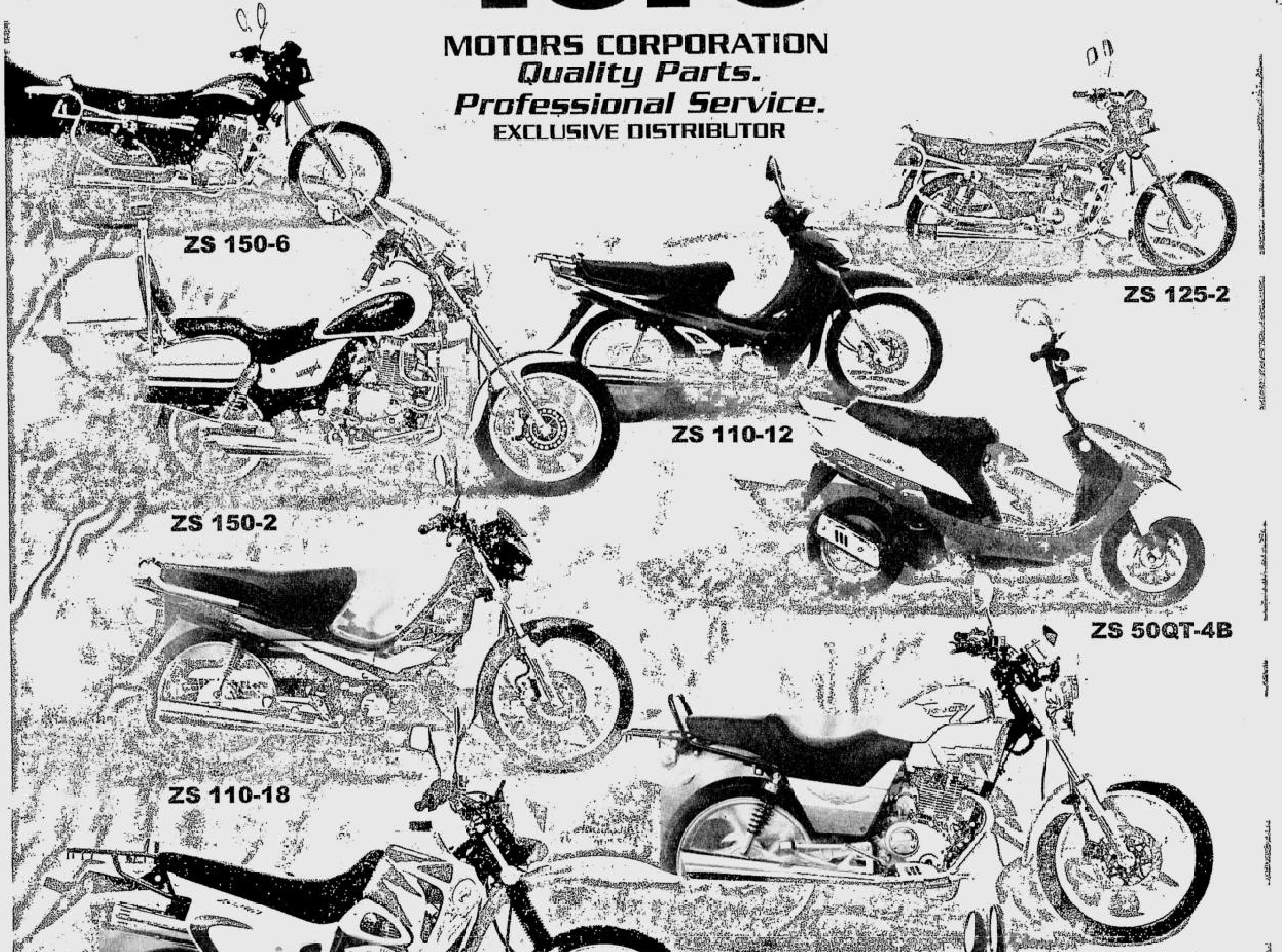
ZS 150-6
ZS 125-2
ZS 110-12
ZS 150-2
ZS 50QT-4B
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In case of major mechanical defect within 6 months, Toro Motors Corporation will replace the entire motorcycle unit.

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US exec says civil works successful

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The United States will turn over its completed projects under the social component of the Balikatan 02-1 in Basilan starting July 13.

Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, commanding officer of the Joint Task Force 510 and Balikatan co-training director, said he was confident that the remaining projects in the island-province, which were being undertaken by the US Navy Seabees, would be completed by July 31.

"The construction effort has been a tremendous success," Wurster said.

Since May, US Seabees have been building footbridges, helicopter landing zones, an airfield, water wells, a pier and a provincial access road in the province, turf of the Abu Sayyaf.

According to a schedule of activities obtained by the INQUIRER, Wurster and Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina would lead the turnover rites.

On July 13, Wurster and Carolina would formally hand over the Kapatagan Access road with a footbridge to the city government of Isabela.

The Mahayahay access road in Maluso would be handed over to Mayor Sakib Salajin on July 17.

On July 20, Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar will formally receive the airstrip, which could accommodate a C-130 aircraft, inside Camp Cabunbata in Isabela City.

"We have used it several times to move our people in and out (of Basilan) and it is now fully functional," Wurster said.

The Fort Holland Pier in Maluso would be formally handed over by Wurster and AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu July 30.

Wurster said two more projects were nearing completion. These are the 60-kilometer circumferential road linking Maluso and Sumisip, and another road linking Lamitan and Sumisip.

He said as the projects were being completed, elements of the US Engineers have started to "clean, prepare and haul their equipment back to their mother base in Okinawa, Japan and in some other parts of the South East Asia Pacific region."

But Wurster said a small contingent of US troops would remain in Basilan even if the "tactical phase of our mission ends on July 31."

The troops would start a $3 million humanitarian project in Basilan.

Maj. Cynthia Teramae, American military spokesperson, said the projects consist of medical equipment, school facilities and "probably some livelihood projects." *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Western sections of Northern and Central Luzon will experience monsoon rains. Western Visayas and the rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy with rains and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Baguio	Monsoon Rains	Hi 19°	Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 24°
Laoag	Monsoon Rains	Hi 28°	Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Monsoon Rains	Hi 26°	Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28°	Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 26°
Calapan	Cloudy wih Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33°	Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33°	Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34°	Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33°	Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33°	Lo 24°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/12/02

Youth leaders slam politicos' role in polls

LAOAG CITY—Youth leaders here are upset over a recent Commission on Elections decision allowing politicians to meddle in the July 15 Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

"We have worked so hard to shield the SK elections from partisan politics yet here comes Comelec virtually legalizing intervention by traditional politicians," Richard Alvin Nalupta, SK National Federation president, said in a telephone interview.

The Comelec, in an en banc session in Iloilo City last week, passed a resolution allowing local political leaders to endorse or campaign for their candidates in the July 15 elections.

It was the first time that political leaders were given a freehand to influence the outcome of the barangay and youth elections.

The Comelec also legalized what politicians have traditionally practiced in the grassroots elections in the past, Nalupta said.

Freedom

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos said the resolution was in recognition of local leaders' freedom of expression, including their right to endorse candidates in their individual capacities.

Nalupta, however, said the Comelec ruling spoiled the youth elections' character as a non-partisan activity and undermined efforts to veer youth leaders away from traditional politics.

"The Comelec should be the last body to be pushing such an idea. At the very least, the SK should have been consulted first before the poll body made the ruling," he said.

He said by allowing politicians to interfere in the SK elections, well-entrenched political clans are "given another door of opportunity" to expand their strongholds in the 2004 elections down to the youth level.

"Abalos himself used to be a politician. That the Comelec ruling was enacted under his watch is suspect. Is there a deliberate attempt to corrupt the youth in favor of traditional politicians?" Nalupta asked.

Meanwhile, The SK national federation said some 2.51 million out of five million young voters have registered for the July 15 elections.

Record

The figure represents 48.6 percent of the youth voting population, the highest since the first SK elections in 1992, the federation said.

Nalupta said SK records showed an increasing youth participation in the elections since 1992 with a registration rate of 43.05 percent in 1996.

In Baguio City, monsoon rains have threatened to postpone the July 15 elections in some towns in Abra and Benguet, lawyer Armando Velasco, Comelec director in the Cordillera, said.

Velasco said the swelling of the Abra River has isolated the 15 interior towns and preparations for the elections have already been delayed.

"I still have to get reports from these towns if the election paraphernalia have already been received," he said.

He said Abra has been tagged as an election hot spot as six barangay captains have been murdered this year in the province. All the killings were reported to be election-related.

Several road cuts in Benguet might also postpone elections in some areas there. These road cuts would not be repaired until the rains stopped, it was learned. *Cristina Arzadon and Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cops keep tight watch for drugs on Boracay

By Nestor Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Police have tightened measures against drug pushers on Boracay Island following the arrest of four tourists suspected to be selling shabu and other illegal drugs.

Insp. Christopher Prangan, acting chief of the Boracay Police Community Precinct (BPCP), said they activated the barangay intelligence networks to monitor suspected drug pushers. The BCPP also fielded civilian agents to pose as buyers, he added.

Prangan told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that most of the illegal drugs sold on the world-famous island resort were brought in from outside as most local drug pushers were already apprehended or placed under close police watch.

Shabu

On June 27, a team from the BPCP and the intelligence special operations group of the Aklan Provincial Police Office, arrested four tourists, including two Filipino-Americans, who were selling suspected shabu and other illegal drugs.

Prangan identified those arrested as Jose Reyes, 21, of Forbes Park in Makati and his alleged live-in partner Liza Marie Taca, 24, of 2127 Park Forest Drive, St. Louis, United States. Both carried expired US passports.

The two others were Marvin Canto, 30, of Parañaque and his alleged live-in partner Darlene Jackson, 24, of Pasay City.

Suites

The four were billeted at Room 231 of Regency Hotel in Barangay Balabag. The room, a presidential suite, costs P15,000 per day.

They were arrested at about 2:30 a.m. in their room after the police served a search warrant issued by Executive Judge Marietta Juliet Homena-Valencia of the Aklan Regional Trial Court based in Kalibo town.

Found in their room were around 20 grams of suspected shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) with a street value of at least P60,000.

The tablets were taken to the Police Regional Office headquarters in Iloilo City for laboratory tests.

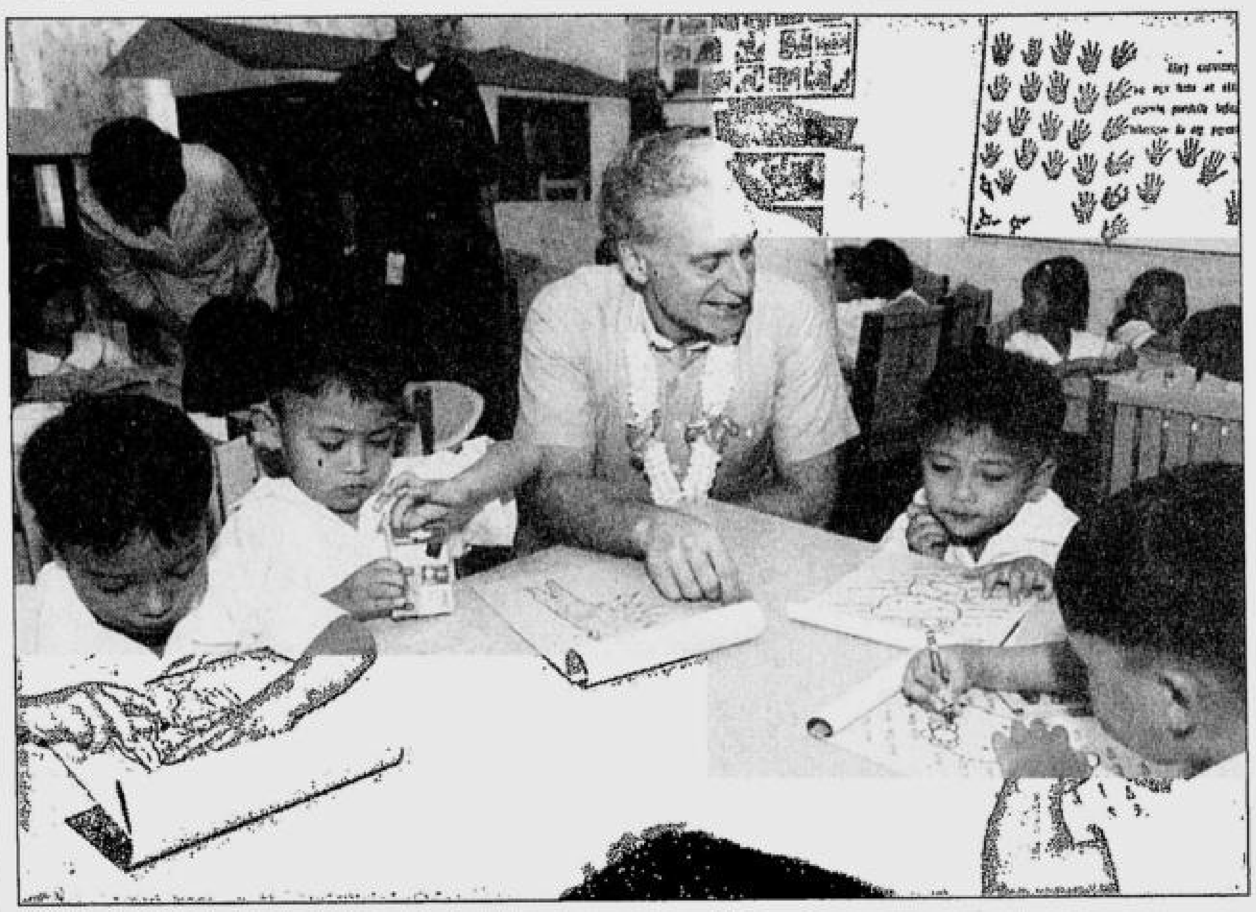


PHOTO COURTESY BY PGI

ENVOY
US Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone takes a break to visit a day care class in a village in Bay, Laguna. The ambassador also visited a geothermal power plant in the town being run by the Philippine Geothermal Inc.

MISSING CARGO OF RICE

Cebu customs men charged with graft

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Charges were filed against several customs officials for the disappearance of the cargo vessel MV Great Faith, which was loaded with 18,000 sacks of suspected smuggled rice.

The Office of the Visayas Ombudsman adopted the findings of the committee chaired by Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Gizon who found probable cause to indict several customs officials and some private individuals.

Director Virginia Palanca-Santiago of the Ombudsman-Visayas said the anti-graft body would immediately conduct preliminary investigation and administrative proceedings against the officials.

Charged with violating the anti-graft law were former Customs District Collector Roberto Sacramento, Deputy Director for Assessment Santiago Maravillas, Customs Seaman Julius Cesar Villarin, Captain Ronald Pasion, Lt. Jesus Presbitero and Rogaciano Ceniza Jr.

They were also charged administratively with grave misconduct and conduct prejudicial to the interest of the service.

Criminal charges were also filed against Customs Intelligence and Investigation Services agent Ely Gealan, Customs Marine engineer Bienvenido Caluyo and SPO4 Rodolfo Cantero of the police Maritime Command.

Several private persons were also included in the charges. They were Christian Sumilhig, general manager of Searabbit Enterprises; Popoy Mancao, shipper of the cargo; Rene Cue, owner of Sampaguita Shipping Co that owned the cargo vessel; Winnie Nadera, facilitator and part owner of Harem Club and lawyers Romulo Trinidad and Simplicio Sorgio, the shipping company's lawyers.

MV Great Faith was seized in September last year because its rice cargo, worth P18 million, lacked papers.

Sacramento recommended the release of the confiscated items but former Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva overruled his order.

The cargo ship was docked at the Ouano wharf in Mandaue City, Cebu under the custom's care. But on Christmas Eve, MV Great Faith disappeared with its cargo.

In her resolution, Santiago said Sacramento was held liable because he failed to order the transfer of the cargo to a bonded warehouse as a matter of standard operating procedure.

"He cannot justify his failure to do so on the ground that there existed at that time no available storage space for the said shipment. He could have had notified the commissioner of customs about the predicament so that he could be given further instructions," she said.

She said both Sacramento and Maravillas could be held administratively liable for bad faith and gross negligence for failing to turn over the vessel and its cargo to the customs police.

Santiago said Sacramento abandoned his post at the time MV Great Faith disappeared.

Ex-NPAs assure no role in polls

BACOLOD CITY— The Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade has assured the Negrenses that the rejectionist group will remain nonpartisan in the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on July 15.

RPA-ABB national commander Carapali Lualhati said campaigning for any candidate is not only being discouraged but is prohibited by their group.

He also claimed that he has not even campaigned for his mother, Zenaida, who is running for barangay captain of Bata, Bacolod City.

"We will help only to ensure an honest and orderly elections," Lualhati said.

Marsha Cordero, Commission on Election supervisor in Negros Occidental, said she received reports that armed RPA-ABB guerillas were campaigning actively for a favored candidate in Barangay Canlusong, E.B. Magalona town, about 23 km north of this city.

She, however, said she had not received reports of harassment of candidates in the province.

Senior Insp. Paterno Torralba and Lualhati said they would verify the reported partisan activities of alleged RPA-ABB guerillas in E.B. Magalona. But Col. Alphonsus Crucero, 303rd Infantry Brigade commanding officer, said the only threat was the mainstream CPP-NPA. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Flood victims turn to 'jueteng' for relief

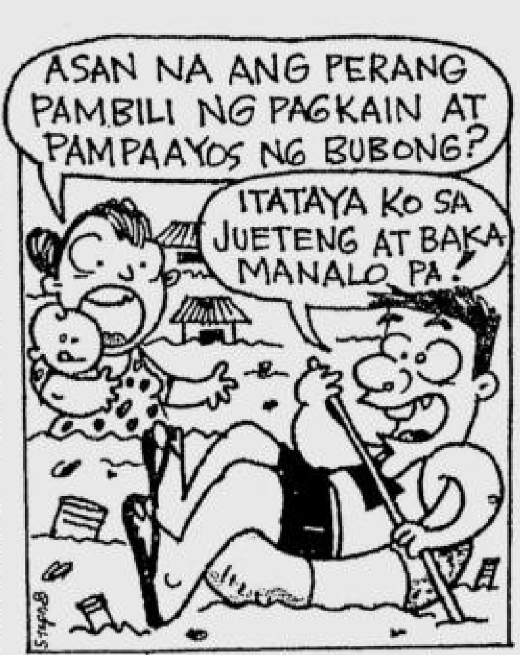
By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—With 13 villages here under two to four feet of water, the more hard-up among jueteng aficionados have been swamping suspected gambling financier Melchor "Ngo-Ngo" Caluag with requests to make them win or increase the prize money at stake.

In one alley in Barangay Dolores here on Wednesday, several bettors took turns yelling this appeal to a *cobrador* (collector): "Tell Ngo-Ngo to make us win. Floods make life more difficult for us. Tell him we need money for food."

The collector said many bettors have asked her to convey that message to Caluag. Others, she added, have urged her to tell Caluag to increase the winnings amid reports that the daily stakes did not go beyond P50,000 since the jueteng scandal erupted anew last June.

Some bettors also believed that the draws, held thrice daily, have been rigged so Caluag could continue paying "protection money."


ASAN NA ANG PERANG PAMBILI NG PAGKAIN AT PAMPAAYOS NG BUBONG?
ITATAYA KO SA JUETENG AT BAKA MANALO PA!
STEPHB

Desperate to win in what is dubbed as the "sweepstakes of the masses," those in Looban, a poor community near the city proper, had always kept a keen eye on Caluag's new car, especially its plate number.

Caluag, they said, often patterned the winning numbers to the numbers in the plate of his new car or on the birthday of some known personalities in the city.

The bet collector said she has relayed the appeals to her *cabo* (area managers) who, in turn, promised to notify Caluag.

According to her, Caluag might be "more generous now" because he is running as barangay captain of Dolores, this city's commercial capital.

"He gives tips (on possible winning numbers) now and then," she said.

Except in the city proper, which is some 5 km north of the Central Luzon police headquarters, jueteng operations have been unhampered in most villages in the city since last week, it was learned.

In the case of the Dolores collector who has been employed in jueteng in the last five years, the collections are even higher during the flooding season.

"*Dakal la reng tataya patsi albug uling mas masakit ing bie. Mamag-asa la* (Many people place their bets when there is flood and life is even more hard. They hope to win)," she said.

During the last five days, she had been wading in waist-deep or knee-deep water, making the rounds of houses to get bets.

Which is better for her because she gets bigger commission from bets. "Even having an athlete's foot (from the flood) does not scare me," she said.

The one thing that frightens her is arrest by the police, which did not come often of late.

Ecleo cleared of drug charges

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Detained cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. scored a victory on Wednesday when the Cebu City prosecutor's office junked for lack of evidence the complaint of possession of illegal drugs against him.

City Prosecutor Jose Pedrosa said a panel of prosecutors did not find any probable cause to indict Ecleo for illegal drug charges.

"Our duty here as fiscals is not to put the respondent in jail but to see that justice is served. But in this case, there is no evidence to support it," he said.

Ecleo, "supreme master" of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), is in jail for parricide charges for the slaying of his wife Alona Bacolod-Ecleo.

Lawyer Orlando Salatandre said his client was happy with the dismissal of the drug charges because he had been vindicated.

But he said they would file criminal and administrative charges against Criminal Investigation and Detection Group chief Nestorio Gualberto and his men.

'Humiliation'

His client, he added, would demand P20 million in damages from the authorities for the humiliation that he went through.

"Gualberto would be included in the charges because of the principle in law about moral ascendancy. He was there at the (city jail) when the inspection was conducted," he said.

Jail guards found three packs of shabu inside Ecleo's suitcase during a routine search shortly after the cult leader was committed to the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center (BBRC) on June 21.

The packs were inserted inside an Ivory soap bar. Ecleo insisted that the shabu was planted because he never used that brand of soap.

Assistant prosecutors Gilbert Moises and Fernando Gubalane said in a joint resolution that Ecleo was not in actual custody of the suitcase.

The prosecutors said while the suitcase was given to Ecleo by a supporter at the CIDG headquarters in Camp Crame, he was not in physical possession of the suitcase from the time he left the CIDG headquarters on June 21 until he was committed to the BBRC.

"His situation did not change when he was transported to Cebu City until his bag was routinely searched prior to his commitment at the BBRC where JO1 (Aleth) Romanillos found the 1.03 grams of shabu," the prosecutors said.

They also noted that Ecleo was handcuffed from the time he was arrested on Dinagat Island on June 19, brought to Camp Crame and then to Cebu City.

"The CIDG personnel were the ones in actual possession (of the luggage)," they added.

Pedrosa said he approved the resolution of his two assistant prosecutors because he, too, was convinced that the police failed to establish that Ecleo owned the shabu.

Testimony

He quoted the testimony of PO2 Pablo Gentallian, one of the CIDG personnel here tasked to escort Ecleo from his arrival at the airport up to his commitment at the BBRC.

During a hearing, Gentallian admitted that he left the bag in the security van provided by the CIDG when he escorted the cult leader to the court.

"There was no continued control over the bag. All along the possibility of criminal finger (sic) may have intervened," said Pedrosa.

Ecleo is accused of killing his wife Alona whose decomposing body was dumped in Dalaguete town, about 85 km south of here, on Jan. 8.

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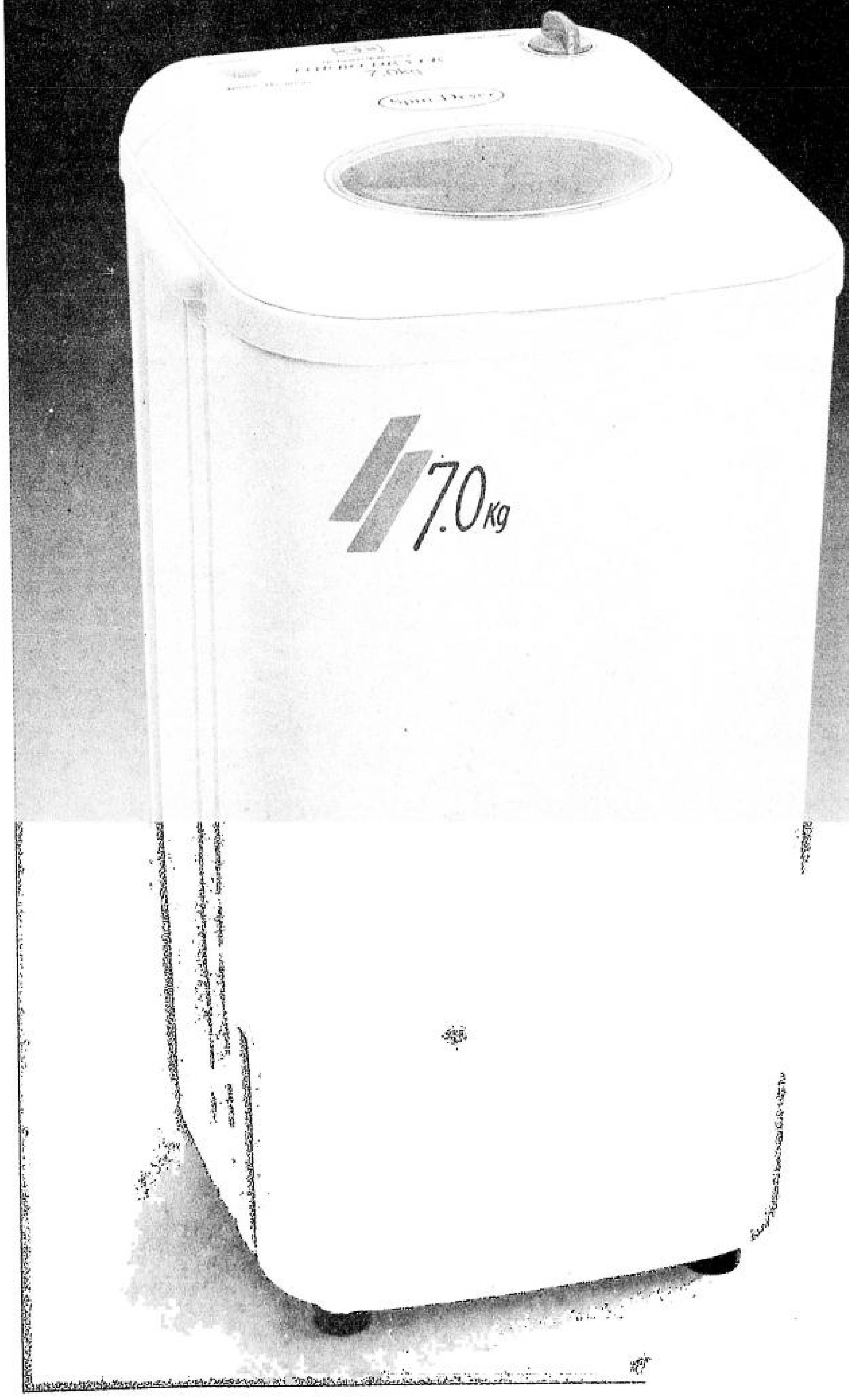

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Back to Edsa for Copa, other civil society groups

From page A1

aired their strong opposition to Malacañang's efforts to appoint opposition Sen. Blas Ople to succeed Guingona.

The Palace has also tapped former Estrada officials Ronaldo Puno, former interior secretary; Ricardo Puno, former press secretary; and Jimmy Policarpio, former presidential legislative liaison officer.

Civil society's objections prompted the President to single out Saycon, whom she alluded to as a termite.

The name calling forced Saycon to resign as a member of the board of directors of the government-controlled Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

Montelibano said some Copa members were trying to determine whether the sentiments of People Power II forces in Manila against Palace moves to tap former allies of Estrada were shared by people in the provinces.

Reunion of sorts

"We want to know if these are echoed in the provinces because we believe that the intensity of the movement must cross the seas," Montelibano said.

A Copa member said the group was against Ople getting the foreign affairs portfolio because it was he who moved to impeach then Senator Guingona following his "I Accuse" privilege speech against Estrada. In the speech, Guingona accused Estrada of receiving millions in kickback from jueteng, an illegal numbers game.

The speech was followed by a series of street protests that culminated in the People Power Revolt that led to the ouster of Estrada.

Guingona touched base with Copa last Monday during Saycon's birthday party in Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa.

Guingona's presence was seen as a "reunion of some sorts," a Copa member said.

"We used to meet in Guingona's house in New Manila (Quezon City) to discuss the political situation, and this was before (former Ilocos Gov.) Chavit Singson came out with his jueteng exposé," a member of Copa said.

Montelibano said that Guingona had given support to civil society groups during the Estrada administration.

"There is a sentimental thing between him and the civil society," he said.

Damage control

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, an official of Kompil II, an alliance of groups that called for the resignation of Estrada, before she joined the Cabinet, downplayed the row between Ms Macapagal and Copa.

Soliman said "Copa is just one of the organizations and cannot speak for the whole of civil society."

But she conceded that "Copa was not alone in being anxious over speculations that offers (of government positions) were made to allies (of Estrada)."

Soliman said that she herself "would be anxious, too, if that is true."

She said the "anxieties" on the part of civil society leaders, who met with some Cabinet members last Monday, were lessened after the alleged moves to tap Estrada's allies by Malacañang were "clarified," Soliman told the INQUIRER.

She said "there are efforts to continually clarify (issues) and to provide information to civil society groups anxious about developments on the political side of things."

"We need to continue the dialogue because we don't want to fall into the same anxiety levels they (civil society leaders) felt when the speculations came out," she added.

Soliman maintained that no government posts were offered to the Puno brothers and Policarpio. This was what the President had told her Cabinet secretaries and "I took her word for it."

But when reminded of the disclosure made by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo to INQUIRER editors last week that he did ask the Puno brothers to help the administration, Soliman said: "That was not a government discussion."

GUINGONA to mentor civil society groups.

Saycon on GMA: She has burned her bridges

From page A1

But Malacañang will no longer be tolerant of discordant voices in the government, even if these come from appointees belonging to civil society groups that helped install Ms Macapagal as President via People Power II.

"The path of government is only one," Conrado Limcaoco, the President's adviser on media and ecclesiastical affairs, declared yesterday. "If you don't agree with one thing, shut up. If you want to avail yourself of your right to speak out to the contrary, get out of government."

Limcaoco laid down this dictum in the face of unrest among Ms Macapagal's allies, Copa included, as a result of the political accommodation being extended to associates of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Limcaoco and acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable were not able to confirm radio reports yesterday that even before Saycon was compelled to leave the government, two other members of civil society groups were yanked out of government corporations.

They were Salvador Enriquez Jr. and Horacio Paredes, who were reportedly stripped of board seats in the Energy Development Corp. and Exploration Corp., respectively, both subsidiaries of the Philippine National Oil Co.

Enriquez, a budget secretary during the Ramos administration, chairs the People's Consultative Assembly (PCA), which has accused the First Couple of corruption.

OUSTED or resigned from their board seats in PNOC subsidiaries are Malaya columnist Ducky Paredes, a known ally of ex-President Estrada, and former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez, a close associate of ex-President Fidel Ramos.

Paredes, a press secretary during the Aquino administration, was among the complainants in a mutiny case filed against military generals who withdrew support from Estrada at the height of People Power II.

Enriquez's seat was reportedly offered to Copa chair Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, who supposedly declined it.

Cojuangco, a former representative of Tarlac, reportedly wrote Malacañang last May to that effect.

When sought for comment on the matter, all Afable could say was: "I don't think we can relate it to this present situation."

Appointed to the post

Saycon, who announced his resignation on TV on Wednesday afternoon following Ms Macapagal's remarks, yesterday said he was drafting a resignation letter that he would submit to the PDIC board shortly.

He was appointed to the PDIC post in June 2001.

Saycon did not hide his disgust over the President's reaction to his earlier statement that some Cabinet members would quit over the supposed impending appointment of opposition Sen. Blas Ople to the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the recruitment of Estrada associates Ricardo and Ronaldo Puno and Jaime Policarpio.

"Apparently if you're holding a government post, she wants you to shut your eyes and your mouth," he said. "The principles that we (upheld) at Edsa are different from the values of the President."

Saycon told INQ7.net Wednesday that "the choice (of resigning) is not hard to make."

"I will always choose to be free because that is what Edsa is all about," he said, adding:

"If accepting a position in government means curtailment of our democratic rights and principles to ventilate and speak against what is wrong, politically and morally, and this becomes a government policy, then I am quitting.

"I did not ask, I did not apply, I did not lobby for this position. The appointment was signed, sealed and delivered on my desk as a representative of the private sector."

Just reminding her

Saycon stressed that he was not criticizing the President on the matter of Ople's appointment and the recruitment of the Puno brothers and Policarpio.

"We were just reminding her not to consider the appointment of these officials who themselves might cause the downfall of her administration," he said. "These are the same officials who have supported (the late dictator Ferdinand) Marcos and Estrada."

But despite his falling-out with the President, Saycon said he would never join the opposition.

"Copa will do its bit to be part of the fiscalizing group. We will continue to be vigilant. We have two years to protect the gains of Edsa II," he said.

Who's Saycon?

Saycon, a former sports car racer and businessman, entered politics as political officer of then Sen. Leticia Ramos-Shahani.

He was recruited to the campaign staff of Fidel V. Ramos in 1991, and eventually became a political officer when the latter won in the 1992 presidential election.

He subsequently fell from grace over allegations of involvement in shady transactions.

In 1997, Saycon resurfaced as a political strategist of then Senator Macapagal.

According to sources, he was "instrumental" in charting the Vicente "Tito" Sotto-Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo tandem for the 1998 presidential race.

But what was touted as a winning team collapsed with reports linking Sotto, and even Ms Macapagal, to the illegal drug trade.

On Saycon's advice, Ms Macapagal junked Sotto and agreed to be the running mate of Jose de Venecia.

As it turned out, De Venecia lost, but his running mate won overwhelmingly as Vice President.

In January 2001, Ms Macapagal took her oath as President, replacing Estrada who was deposed by a people's uprising led by cause-oriented and civil groups, including Copa.

Not in public

But as Limcaoco put it, "don't wash your dirty linen in public."

"If it applies to Boy Saycon, then it applies to all in government," Limcaoco said. "Let's disagree inside, but as long as you're in government, you follow the public position of the President as your chief executive."

During his regular briefing, Afable affirmed Limcaoco's dictum that everyone must toe the line.

"Every executive department has to uphold that discipline," Afable said.

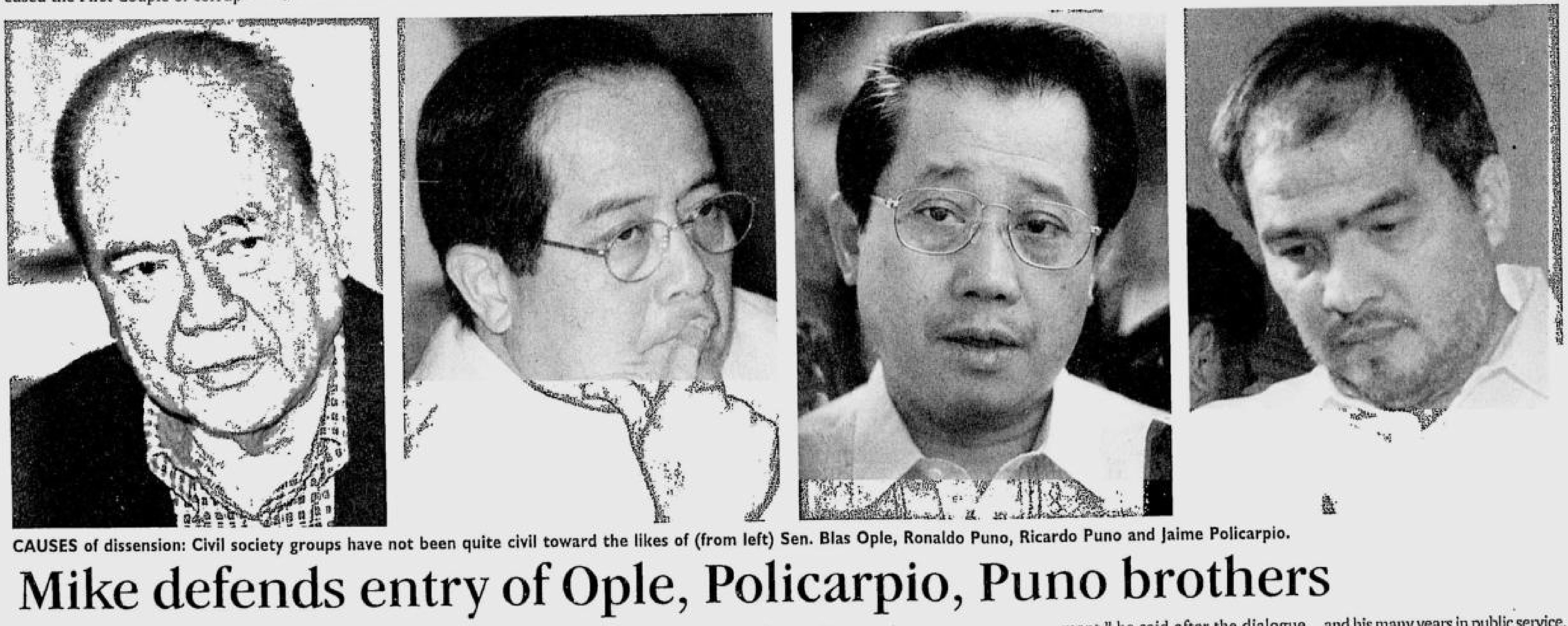
He said the President had toughened up on dissenting voices in government because "there has been enough of bickering and controversies in the country."

Referring to her Edsa II allies, Afable said: "The President is going to follow her policy directions very firmly regardless of any political pressure or so-called political debts."

In an interview with Malacañang reporters, Limcaoco also said that not one civil society group could lay claim to being responsible for People Power II.

He went further, saying it was not really civil society groups that made the uprising possible but "the multitude of unorganized masses who went to Edsa."

Limcaoco's statement practically sought to disenfranchise non-government groups that mobilized forces that served as the core of the second People Power uprising.



CAUSES of dissension: Civil society groups have not been quite civil toward the likes of (from left) Sen. Blas Ople, Ronaldo Puno, Ricardo Puno and Jaime Policarpio.

Mike defends entry of Ople, Policarpio, Puno brothers

From page A1

on their own perspective," Arroyo said in an interview during the inaugural rites of the consulate.

The President's husband went to the Ateneo de Manila University with Estrada's former interior secretary Ronaldo Puno and to the same law school as Policarpio.

Mr. Arroyo had admitted during dinner with the INQUIRER editors last week that he had asked the Puno brothers to help the Macapagal administration.

The offer to opposition Sen. Blas Ople to replace Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. as well as the enlistment of the former Estrada officials in the Macapagal administration will not pervert the spirit of Edsa II, Conrado "Dodie" Limcaoco, presidential adviser on media and ecclesiastical affairs, said.

"There are other values of Edsa II that I think are to be valued like good governance," Limcaoco said in an interview with Palace reporters.

"You can achieve good governance in many ways. One is certainly by appointing competent people."

Civil society groups met last Monday in Makati City to confront the administration with what they termed as the administration's tryst with personalities allied with Estrada.

Malacañang is allegedly offering Ople the top post at the Department of Foreign Affairs to break the 12-12 deadlock in the Senate between administration and opposition senators.

No to Punos

Limcaoco said that if "things are unstable"—in obvious reference to the Macapagal administration—and one were to choose between "two things that are equal," a leader would "strike for stability."

"That's how you govern if things are unstable," Limcaoco said.

Limcaoco's message seems to be that the Macapagal administration prefers taking in Ople, the Puno brothers and Policarpio rather than seeing them working for the opposition and destabilizing the government.

"If the situation is unstable, how can you govern effectively?" Limcaoco said.

Housing czar Michael Defensor said there were discussions in the Cabinet about the possibility of the Puno brothers and Policarpio joining the government. "The Cabinet members said, 'no,'" he said.

"They wanted to help but they could help in a different capacity aside from being in the government," he said after the dialogue with civil society.

National interest

Sen. Robert Barbers said Ms Macapagal should not think twice about appointing Ople as foreign secretary as it involved a "decision of national interest."

Barbers said the President should ignore hecklers from the opposition should she choose Ople instead of aspirants from her political party.

"It will be best to appoint someone she believes deserves her trust and confidence because of his expertise," he said.

Barbers cited Ople's "stunning performance" as an elder statesman and his many years in public service.

Ople had chaired the Senate committee on foreign relations and was a member of the Constitutional Convention that drafted the 1987 Constitution.

"Let us admit that he is one of the best foreign policy experts," Barbers said.

He said Ople was considered the best ever president of the Geneva-based International Labor Organization.

"Although I joined the Senate in 1998, he is one of the most respectable collengues I look up to," Barbers said. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo and Cynthia D. Balana***

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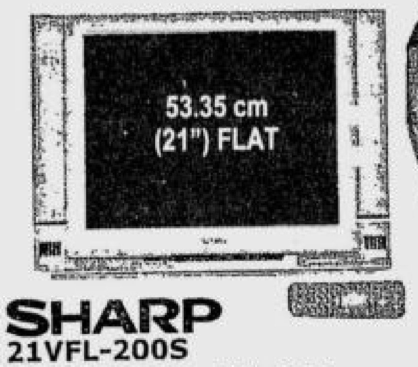

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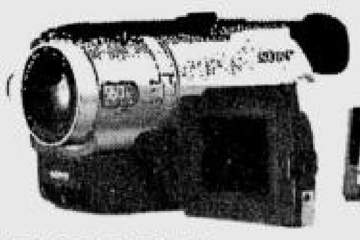

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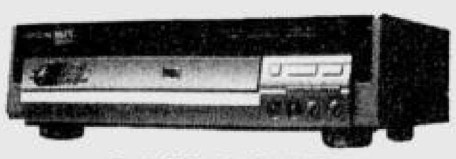

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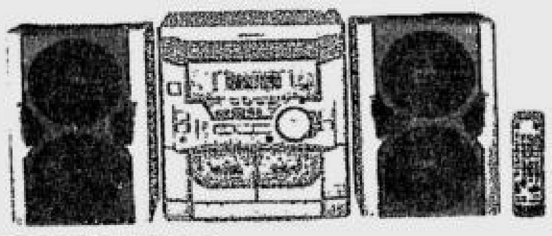

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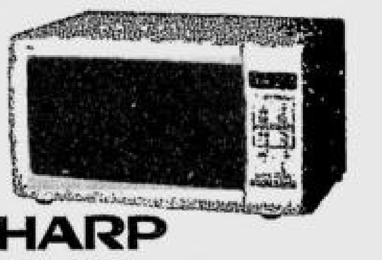

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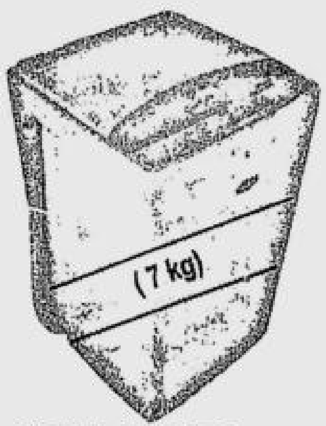

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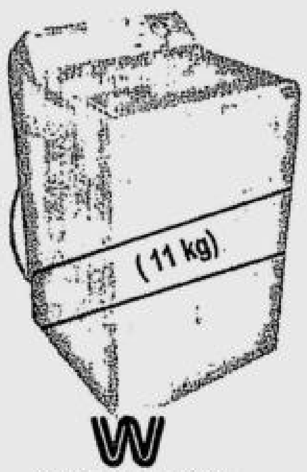

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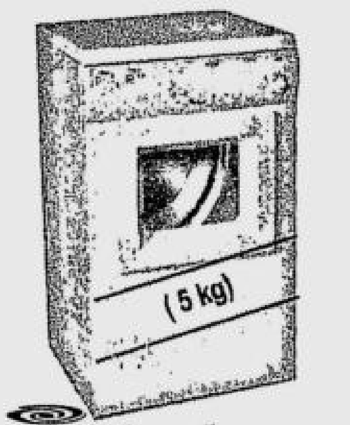

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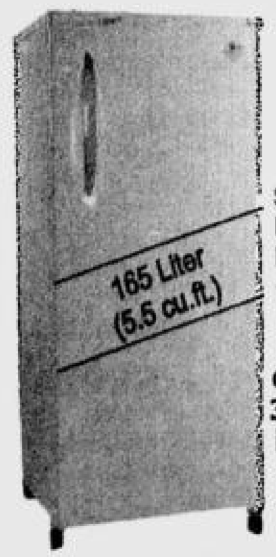

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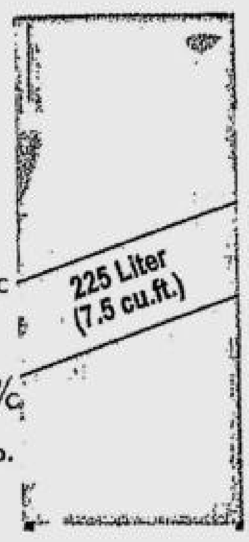

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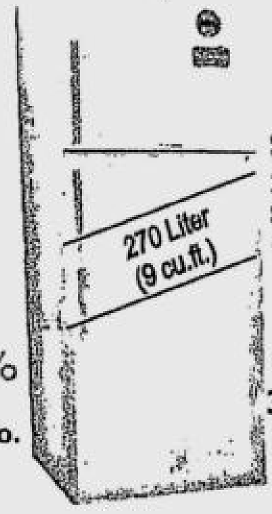

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SR-30NMANF
- No Frost

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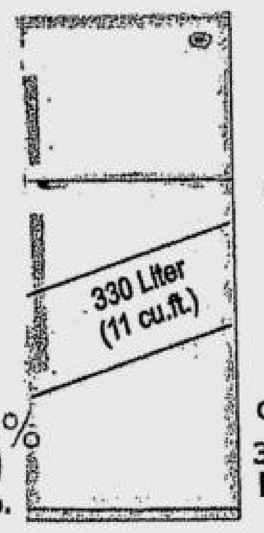

LG
2 DOOR REF.
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Military rogues head 2 kidnap syndicates

From page A1

he said.

Ebdane declined to name the other groups in the PNP's Order of Battle.

The President ordered a virtual search-and-destroy mission against the 21 gangs.

She said the police should "neutralize the kidnapping syndicates" instead of simply ending abductions.

"It will be like a military operation," she said. "What we will pursue are the kidnappers, not the solution of crimes. They themselves should be the targets so that there won't be any more crimes in the future."

She said the "manhunt" should be similar to the military's pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf, in which specific units have been hunting known guerrilla commanders.

Ms Macapagal said that since the government had already identified the 21 active kidnapping syndicates, all tzhat law enforcers needed to do was hunt them down, like what the military was doing to the Abu Sayyaf.

"In other words, our operations will be like the military," she said.

The President said that top PNP officials were not new to military-type operations "because many of them studied at the Philippine Military Academy."

She said Pacer would be composed of the best operatives from the recently disbanded National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force that Ebdane used to head.

The President also said she told Ebdane that, if possible, specific manhunt operations against each syndicate be accomplished within a two-week timeframe.

Ebdane said that such a strategy would be taken up in an "executive session" with the President.

Ms Macapagal earlier mobilized the Anti-Kidnapping Task Force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the military's anti-coup Task Force Libra and a special unit of the Air Force to help in the anti-crime campaign.

Neutralization

The President explained what she meant by a military approach.

"To begin with, they have previous crimes. So they have warrants of arrests already (against them). It would be like military operations," the President added.

DETAINEE
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SUSPECTS in a kidnap-for-ransom case are presented to President Macapagal during the anti-kidnapping workshop in Camp Crame. EDWIN BACASMAS

"We will go after the kidnappers and not the solution of the crime. We will neutralize the kidnapping syndicates," she said. "Once they are identified, there will be a manhunt."

Ms Macapagal repeated her vow to bring the kidnapping crisis under control within a year.

"As I see it, we're now succeeding in economic measures," she said. "What we're going to do and what we are now taking care of is the problem of peace and order, the problem of kidnapping."

"She has given us specific instructions to accelerate the neutralization of these groups," Edbane later said in a chance interview.

Ms Macapagal left the PNP headquarters around 10 a.m. yesterday, but returned around noon to preside over the presentation of five men arrested in Oriental Mindoro.

"*Buena mano na naman si Jun* (Ebdane is off to a good start)," she said.

Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, Intelligence Group chief, said the group who abducted school principal Romeo Bayanay was "a new group" and was not included in the PNP Order of Battle.

Bayanay was snatched on July 1 in Barangay Labasan, Bongabong town, and was released three days later after his family paid P1 million in ransom.

A portion of the ransom, P98,000, was recovered by the operatives from the suspects. The rest was believed to be in the hands of two other members, who remain at large. ***With reports from AFP and AP***

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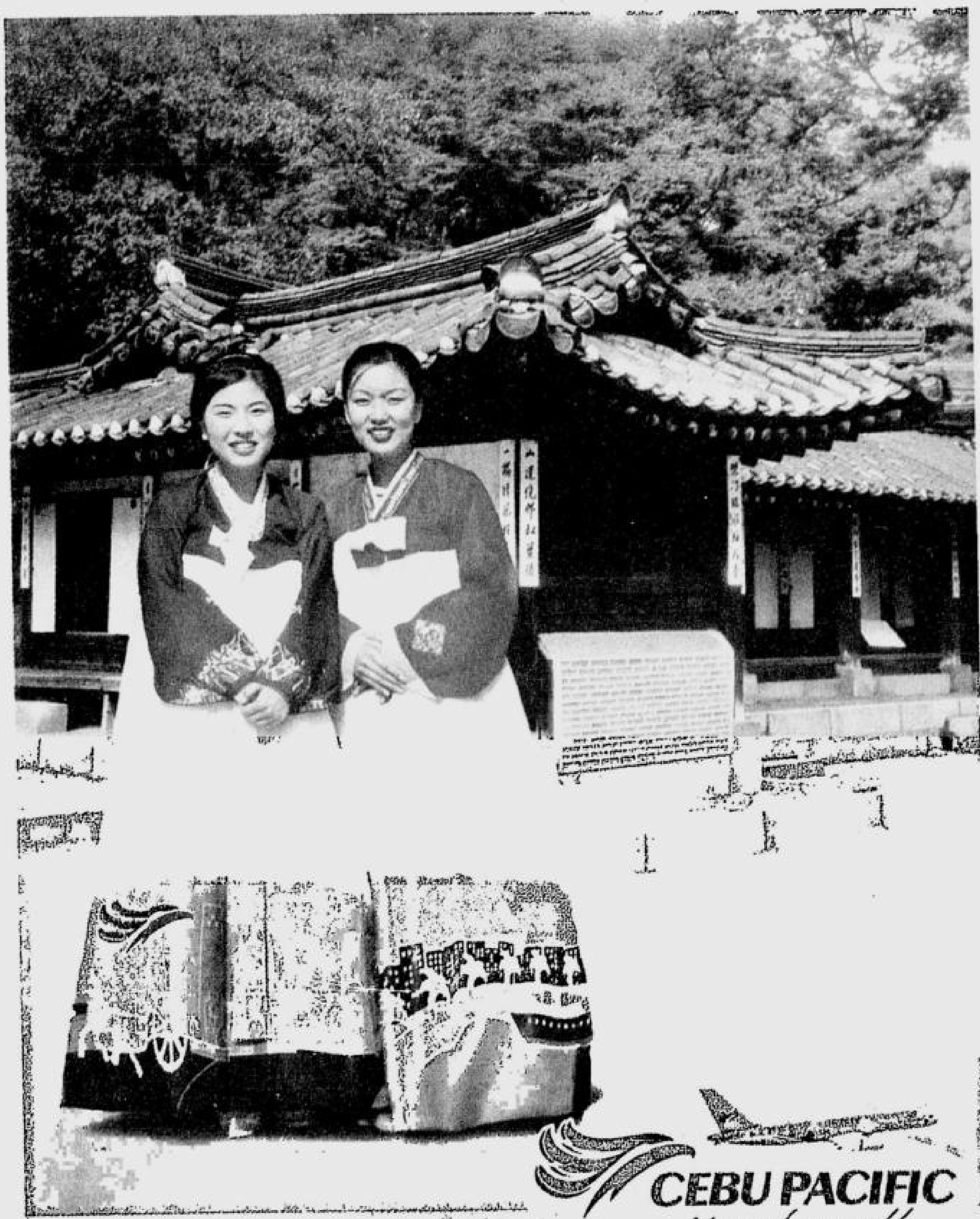
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Duterte hits critics: 'Mga ugok'

From page A1

Duterte denied having said that the summary execution of criminals would solve the peace and order problem.

"I challenge everyone to review the tape (of) my speech (at last Tuesday's anti-kidnapping summit) and look for a single statement that I am for summary execution," Duterte said.

"Show me . . . let me hear (the tape) because if you find one . . . then I will go to the President and tell her that I am not ready to accept the job because I might create a revolution."

The President had recently appointed Duterte her anti-crime consultant.

On Tuesday, Duterte captivated an audience that included Ms Macapagal with candid remarks about how he made this city one of the country's safest.

"The intention of the criminals is to instill fear in their victims and kill them. What should we do, but kill them also," he said during the anti-kidnapping summit.

Criminals "threaten to kill, so what we'll do is we kill them, too," he added.

Yesterday, he blamed critics for misunderstanding his remarks.

"You missed my point. Instead of appreciating my threats to criminals you are condoning . . . sympathizing (with) what will happen to criminals in the future," he said.

Nothing wrong

Duterte said he saw nothing wrong with the statements he made at the Manila Hotel summit. He said he stood by them and would engage in a public debate with human rights advocates anytime.

He said his critics—among them Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales—were entitled to their opinion. "That is expected. We are in a free and open society . . . It's democracy . . . everybody is entitled to their own opinion . . . even me."

But Duterte maintained he was largely misunderstood when he quoted the biblical injunction "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."

"I am entitled to my right and that is my opinion. Isn't it an expression. Since when did I lose my right to express? Aside from being mayor, I am more than a citizen of this Republic. Whether it sits well with them or not . . . that is their problem. As long as I am guided by the Constitution . . . there are laws to be followed and that's it," he added.

Duterte said he was indulging in hyperbole when he quoted from the Bible.

"I was actually addressing it to criminals. It is better to warn them against committing crimes . . . (maybe when you say that) they will be threatened or intimidated . . . It is better than just allowing them to commit (a crime). It was an exaggeration of the situation. I am not stupid," the mayor, who was recently featured in Time Magazine, said.

Duterte, a state prosecutor for about 12 years before he became mayor, said, "criminals do not understand the Revised Penal Code . . . even if you read and define what's there, it does not have an impact on them."

THE PRESIDENT'S flavor of the month appears to be Davao City Mayor Duterte (at left) here shown at the anti-kidnapping summit on Tuesday. Also in photo are PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu and Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya. EDWIN BACASMAS

Duterte is on his fourth term as mayor. After three consecutive terms, he served for three years as this city's representative to Congress, before returning to office last year.

Dialogue with criminals

Duterte said he was not lecturing the President and top police officials about what to do to fight crime.

"My market at that time . . . I was in a dialogue with criminals . . . (now if you don't understand what I was doing) that's your problem, not mine," he said.

Duterte said he could not understand why his critics were more worried about the fate of criminals.

"There is not enough decent men in this country," he lamented.

He said there were only two possibilities why he was applauded at the anti-crime summit: The people are already desperate, or the people want revenge.

"Revenge is a reaction of a man who is hurt. *Kayong mga bolador diyan sa* Manila—*gustong gumanti yan* (victims). When I said an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth? They applauded because they really want justice," he said.

Duterte did not spare the unnamed police officer who criticized his way of dealing with criminals.

"At least I say and do it. Those of you in Manila don't say anything because you don't do anything," he said in Filipino.

"That is why criminals go on a rampage in Metro Manila. I am being criticized for what I am saying? I am actually expressing my indignation publicly. You don't say a word . . . meaning you are not doing anything in this God-damned country . . . the deadwood who dwell in the doldrums of the four walls of the office . . . you better shut up!" ***Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

‘Swat bigger termites not insects with no sting,’ Gloria advised

From page A1

Citing Ms Macapagal's statement Wednesday that "a strong republic cannot afford to have termites from within"—apparently made in reference to Pastor "Boy" Saycon of the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa)—Rosales said in a phone interview that this was "the language of the *pikon* (onion-skinned)."

Rosales also said the President should not resort to labeling critics. "It's hard to be President but she should be prepared to listen even if what she's hearing is something she doesn't like to hear. We're supposed to be a democratic country," the congresswoman added.

Even ousted President Joseph Estrada waded in, saying the "termites" could be the forces setting the stage for the eventual "breakup" between the President and the ruling Lakas-NUCD.

"Some Lakas leaders are using Copa to distance the top leadership of Lakas from the (administration)" for the sake of the party's chances in the 2004 polls, the deposed President said in a statement.

He said Saycon's recent tirades against the President were "mere drama . . . (because) it is possible that Lakas leaders are hesitant to stage an open break with (the President) for fear of a public backlash."

"Thus the need to foment an incident that would create the impression that (the President's) leadership is in serious doubt," he added.

Face the mirror

According to militant groups, the President need not look far if she is intent on stamping out "termites."

"Just face the mirror," said Rafael Mariano, leader of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), in a statement addressed to the President.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, one of the major groups that helped oust Estrada and install Ms Macapagal as President, said she was "the real termite destroying the cause of new politics and good governance espoused" in People Power II.

In Baguio City, Leo Legaspi, chair of Migrante International, said militant groups once allied with Ms Macapagal have formally called for her ouster.

"We need a leader who listens to (the complaints) of her people," Legaspi told reporters. He launched the ouster call during a Wednesday forum that questioned Ms Macapagal's role in the controversial resignation of Vice President Teofisto Guingona as foreign secretary, and the moves to abolish the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

But the President found an unlikely ally in opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who assailed her critics for threatening her "with acts that would violate the laws and cause disorder and instability."

In a statement, Biazon said the President had "the constitutional mandate to assert her authority on matters that would assure good governance."

He said that even if certain groups considered themselves responsible for putting Ms Macapagal in power, "their disagreements should not be manifested illegally."

"Not even Copa, the civil society or religious groups who supported the President during Edsa II has the right to use threats for her to reconsider her decisions," Biazon said.

Burning bridges

Recto appealed to the President not to burn bridges with well-meaning civil society groups.

He said opinions aired by responsible groups were good sounding boards for policies because these served as feedback on government programs.

However, he said, criticism aimed at undermining the government would not do the country any good, and Ms Macapagal should not let the heckling get on her nerves.

Recto also appealed to civil society to desist from dictating on the President and to give her more leeway in conducting state affairs.

He said the President's energy must be expended on solving real problems and not on fighting with civil society.

Sen. Loren Legarda called for a stop to divisiveness. "I know that the President has been reaching out and should continue to reach out to civil society so that these questions and concerns are settled," she said.

Legarda refused to comment on the President's statement on "termites," saying: "I think the less we say negative remarks and words of recrimination, the better. Let us build instead of destroying. Let us unite instead of dividing."

Crumbling

Two opposition lawmakers issued warnings on the presence of "termites" in the administration.

"It means the House of Gloria is crumbling. Any government not founded on solid ground will always crumble," Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said.

He said this was "the result of the untimely grasp of power using mob rule."

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla agreed that it was "dangerous" to have termites in one's house because "sooner or later, the house may collapse."

Padilla said it took longer for the dictatorship of the late Ferdinand Marcos to fall because his people were united.

He said the supposed fact that many of the President's supporters were abandoning her was "a dangerous sign that her administration might fall much quicker."

Estrada said Lakas leaders could just be looking for a pretext to ease Ms Macapagal out as standard bearer in the 2004 elections, given the "continued erosion of her trust rating."

"If your standard bearer, who is just an invited member of the party, has the lowest acceptance rating among the potential candidates, then you have to do something to save your party from possible disaster at the polls," he said.

Estrada also noted that Saycon's attacks on Ms Macapagal concerned Guingona's resignation as foreign secretary.

"I find it interesting that Saycon, no great admirer of Guingona, suddenly discovers that his heart bleeds for (the latter) over the issue of his removal from the DFA," Estrada said.

"Better check who will benefit most if Lakas formally breaks up with (Ms Macapagal)," he concluded.

Spade

Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño said the President "has much to account for as the main beneficiary of the nationwide people's uprising against Estrada's corrupt and anti-people government."

"All evidence points to GMA as the one who has betrayed Edsa Dos and is the real termite, so to speak," he said, adding:

"Let's call a spade a spade. Is (her administration) reflective of clean and pro-people politics? Is there any effort to rein in on official corruption, much less scalawags in the military and police? Has anything been done to reverse the disastrous neoliberal economic policies? None."

The Bayan leader dared Ms Macapagal to stand up to the likes of former President Fidel Ramos, who has been linked to the signing of the controversial government contracts with independent power producers.

"(The President) can only badmouth small fry like Boy Saycon, but not Fidel Ramos," Casiño said. "She is also tame when it comes to military generals colluding with Abu Sayyaf bandits. More so, to US President George W. Bush on the deployment of US troops who have a clear record of intervention and barbaric actions here and in other countries."

The KMP's Mariano said the administration was "on the brink of isolation from the people because of political accommodation and economic concessions extended to Estrada's allies."

Fernando Hicap, national chair of the fisherfolk group Pamalakaya, said Ms Macapagal should step down.

"(She) is a very big disappointment," Hicap said. "She was given all the opportunities to institute meaningful reforms after Edsa II, but she did not avail herself of her chances. Now, what we have is a President who is a political crossbreed of ex-Presidents Marcos and Estrada."

Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza challenged the President to prove that she "will not be a wimp" in resolving gut issues such as low wages, unemployment and the rising cost of electricity.

"If politicking for 2004 is not on her agenda, then she should do what is expected of her: good governance sans political considerations. But what we have seen so far is quite the opposite," Fortaleza said. ***Reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Christine Avendaño, Volt Contreras, Gerald G. Lacuarta, Agnes E. Donato and Rocky Nazareno in Manila; Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

RP is 14th most . . .

From page A1

tabase, placed the present Philippine population at 79,894,200 in its latest demographic report.

With the world population at 6.267 billion, that means 13 out of 1,000 people on the planet are Filipinos.

Germany and Vietnam have a slightly higher population than the Philippines. Germany has 81.947 million while Vietnam has 80.305 million.

But because Germany has a negative population growth rate and Vietnam has a growth rate of only 1.7 percent, they are likely to be overtaken soon by the Philippines, which has a growth rate of 2.2 percent, according to World Gazetteer.

The top 10 most populous countries last year retained in their rankings this year: China (1.307 billion), India (1.047 billion), the United States (288.212 million), Indonesia (217.73 million), Brazil (176.27 million), Pakistan (149.277 million), Nigeria (146.675 million), Russia (142.881 million), Bangladesh (136.433 million) and Japan (127.460 million).

On the 11th spot is Mexico (100.124 million) followed by Germany, Vietnam and the Philippines.

Actually, the National Statistics Office pegged the population growth rate of the Philippines from 1995 to 2000 at 2.37 percent, which is higher than the World Gazetteer's figure.

The Commission on Population estimated that the country's population growth rate in 2000 hit 2 percent, but added this would slow down to 1.87 percent by 2005. The world's current population growth rate stands at 1.54 percent.

The Philippines' growth rate is the third highest among the 20 most populous countries, surpassed only by Pakistan and Nigeria, both with 2.6-percent growth rates.

Among the largely Catholic nations in the top 20 most populous nations, the Philippines is the "most fertile" compared to Brazil (1.9 percent) and Mexico (1.3 percent).

According to the World Gazetteer, a third of the 243 countries have a growth rate equal to or higher than the Philippines.

In Asia, only Afghanistan, Malaysia, Cambodia and Pakistan have higher growth rates than the Philippines.

Many of the countries with negative growth rates have been beset by civil wars like Albania (-0.1 percent), Bosnia-Herzegovina (0 percent), Croatia (-0.5), Czech Republic (0), Estonia (-2.3), Kazakhstan (-1.8), Ukraine (-0.6) and Yugoslavia (-0.1). ***Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Now, it's ‘Mr. Bikini . . .

From page A1

milestone in variety shows: the "Mr. Bikini Car Wash" contest.

The competition, aired on "Bongga," a popular noontime television show on GMA 7 here, is a parody of the short-lived bikini car wash that was closed down by the city government in the wake of protests from women's and religious groups.

Launched on July 7, the "Bongga" game has already attracted several young men who have no qualms wearing women's bikinis while dancing, hosing and lathering cars.

Their movements are choreographed, because the show puts a premium on how well a contestant dances, not on how clean the car gets.

The first two contestants, wearing striped bikini bottoms without the tops, took turns washing a Mitsubishi L-300 van. The cameramen took care not to focus on some unmentionables. When the episode aired, the segment was accompanied by blinking special effects and fast-paced music.

Unlike the bikini car wash at the Marina Restaurant, however, the show's version was well received. There were no rallies by militant women's groups and no statement from the Archdiocese of Jaro. At least, not yet.

"It's fun. It's unique," said Diosdado Tan, executive producer of "Bongga." "The contestants are not gays but men, macho men."

Tan said the show might still invite criticism from the same group who railed against the women donning bikinis and washing cars. But he said the show's version has no element of exploitation, just wholesome fun.

The bikini car wash contest will run for two months until the grand finals in September. Prices for the weekly winner and runner-up are P1,000 and P700, respectively.

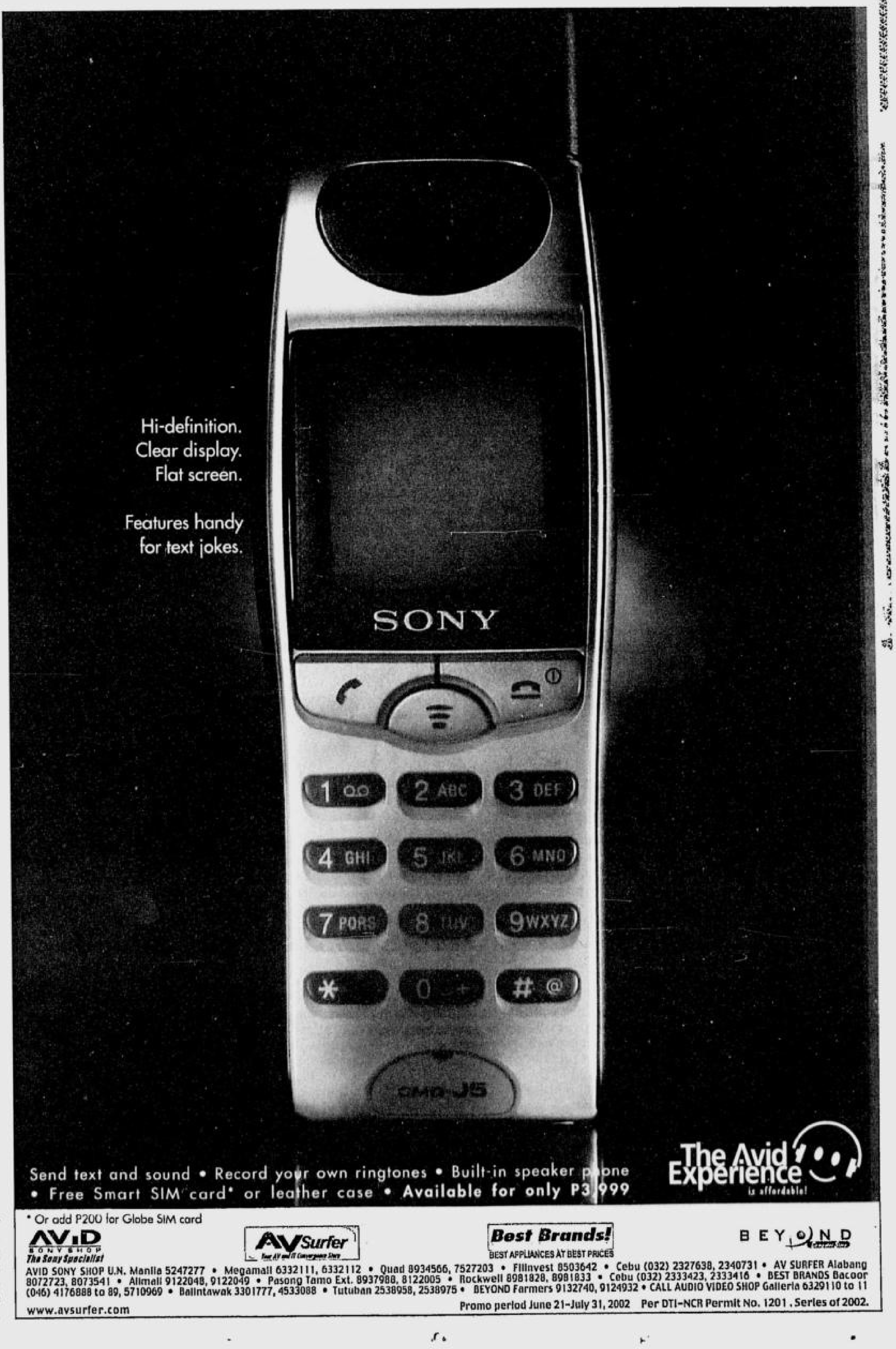
"Bongga" plans to do location shooting of the Mr. Bikini Car Wash in several car wash joints in the city, with contestants coming from the neighborhood.

The new segment appears to cement the show's reputation as a top-rated variety show in Western Visayas since October 1999.

"Nobody dared to do it except 'Bongga.' It shows how creative we can get," said Tan of his production and technical crew of 32.

In December 2001, "Bongga" won the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP) Golden Dove Award for Best Musical Variety Show.

The show, aired live at SM City Iloilo every Sunday noon, is popular here for producing Palarong Pambakla, where gays cross-dress and try to outdo each other in various parlor games, as well as Bongga sa Nota, a singing contest.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SPORTS
Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Basketball classes reset

DUE to heavy rains that hit Metro Manila, Milo BEST Center has reset the Saturday- and Sunday-only basketball classes for this weekend. For further details, call either The BEST Center at 34 Scout Lozano, Barangay Laging Handa, QC (tel. nos. 411-6260 and 372-3066) or Dansel Groom Shop/Sensei Salon, 5th floor, Holiday Inn Manila (tel. no. 525-8191).

PBA ACTION

Red Bull outplays San Miguel

GAME TODAY (Dumaguete City)
6:15 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Ginebra

By Dennis U. Eroa

HARDWORKING Willie Miller and Julius Nwosu shone as Batang Red Bull downed San Miguel Beer, 78-73, in a hotly contested match to joined Coca Cola on top of the PBA Commissioner's Cup standings at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The 5-foot-11 Miller outplayed his taller, heftier opponents as he finished with 11 points, including two free throws which pegged the final count, 18 seconds remaining, while Nwosu recovered from a slow start to contribute 21 points and 16 rebounds.

Red Bull, thus, forced a share of the lead with Coca Cola with a 4-1 record, while San Miguel dropped to 2-2 in the company of RP-Selecta and Sta. Lucia Realty.

San Miguel's downfall was hastened by Art Long's boorish attitude. Long was ejected with 2:24 to play after his continuous verbal assaults on Red Bull's Tony Lang, Noli Locsin and the fans. After he was ordered out, Long even tried to hurl a chair and a bottle of mineral water to the crowd, but was restrained by coach Benito Tanquincen and San Miguel officials.

To the dismay of the Red Bull bench, the referees also deemed it wise to eject Lang. But the story did not end here.

Players of both squads emptied their bench and ran to the dugouts, thinking that Lang and Long decided to settle the issue once and for all. It was a false alarm.

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino said he will summon both teams today.

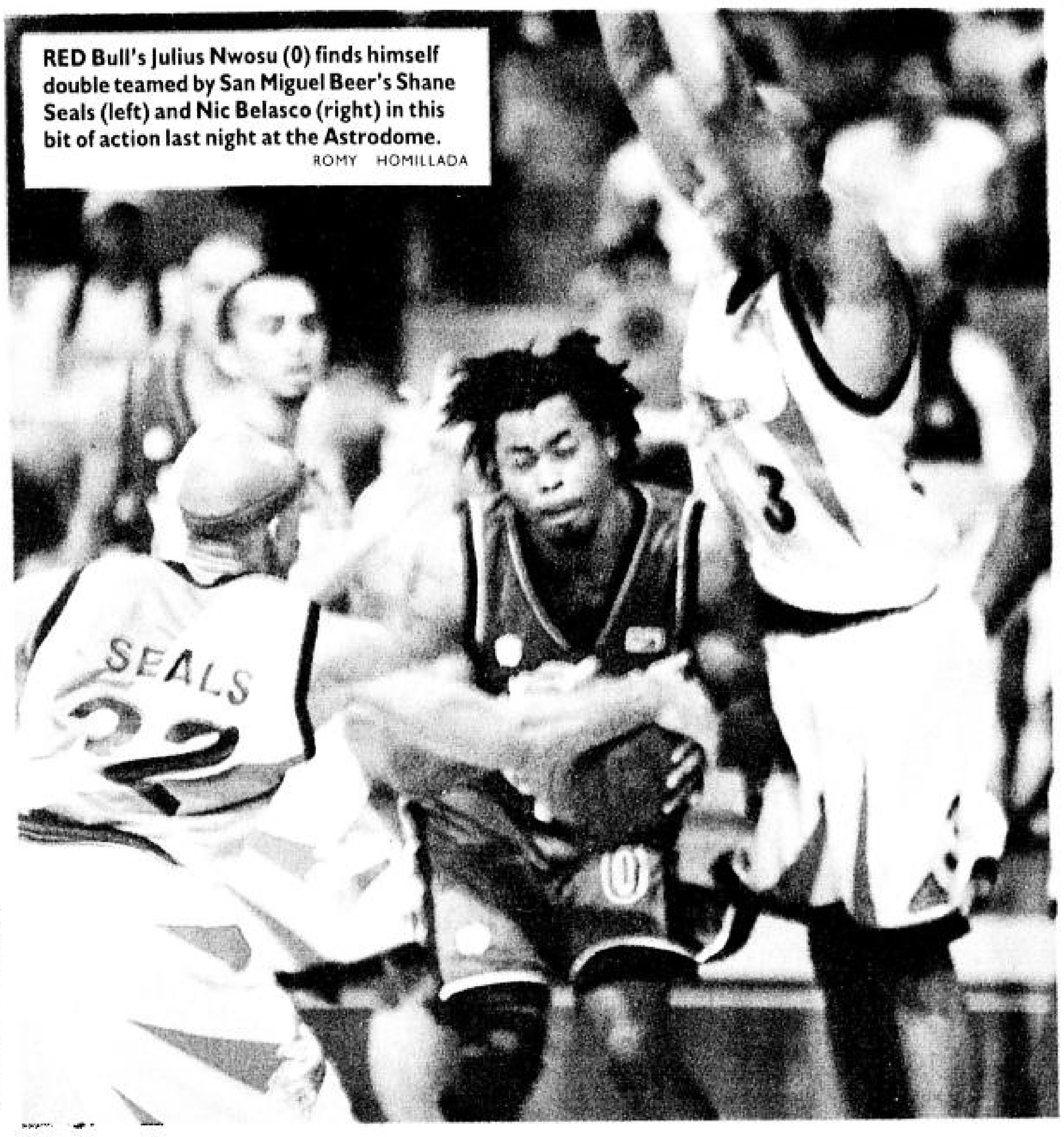
When order was restored, Red Bull greeted San Miguel with a 7-0 bomb which pushed the Thunder to a 62-55 lead.

Scores:

RED BULL 78—Nwosu 21, Lang 16, Harp 12, Miller 11, Valenzuela 7, Locsin 6, Tugade 5, Torion 0.

SAN MIGUEL 73—Belasco 27, Seals 16, Peña 10, Victoria 8, Long 6, Gamboa 3, Lago 3, Castro 0, Mente 0.

Quarters: 15-22,38-35, 55-55, 78-73.



RED Bull's Julius Nwosu (0) finds himself double teamed by San Miguel Beer's Shane Seals (left) and Nic Belasco (right) in this bit of action last night at the Astrodome.
ROMY HOMILLADA

Jones Cup tomorrow

THE METROPOLITAN Basketball Association selection leaves for Taiwan today to compete in the 25th Jones Cup tournament slated July 13-24, 2002.

Supported by Cebuana Lhuillier, the 11-man team will be accompanied by Gems head coach Francis Rodriguez and deputies Nash Racela of the LBC Batangas Blades and Lawrence Chongson of the Osaka-Pangasinan Waves.

The Jones Cup opens tomorrow, but the Filipinos won't be seeing action until Monday, when they meet Lokomotive Novosibirsk of Russia at 7:30 p.m.

'NC' back today; 4 games set

By June Navarro

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—JRU vs UPHR (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—CSB vs PCU (srs/jrs)

THE 78th NCAA basketball tournament resumes today with four equally determined squads raring to see action following a week-long hiatus brought about by bad weather.

After the games were postponed twice because of heavy rains, NCAA officials yesterday gave the green light for unbeaten College of St. Benilde and Philippine Christian University to mix it up at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Jose Rizal University and University of Perpetual Help-Rizal, both sporting identical 1-1 win-loss slates along with the Dolphins, collide in the other varsity match beginning at 2 p.m. Both games will be aired live on Studio 23.

The Blazers, well-augured to land anywhere in the top three, shoot for a third straight win and a follow up of their 74-72 squeaker over the defending champion San Sebastian Stags when they meet the Dolphins at 4 p.m.

"Don't ever count them out. They (Dolphins) are dangerous. Right now we're mapping out a competitive battle plan against them," said CSB head coach Dong Vergeire, who gave the Taft-based dribblers their first title at the turn of the millennium.

Pinoy jins among top contenders in W. Cup

THE PETRON Philippine taekwondo team is among the favorites when it sees action in the 30-nation World Cup championships on July 16-19 in Tokyo, Japan.

Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado yesterday said the 16-man Petron RP squad will fly to Tokyo on Sunday, July 14, to be led by Olympians Roberto Cruz and Donald Geisler.

Also carrying the national colors are Tshomlee Go, Manuel Rivero Jr., Jeferthom Go, Alexander Briones, Dindo Simpao, Michael Alejandrino, Eva Marie Ditan, Daleen Cordero, Jasmin Strachan, Kalindi Tamayo, Veronica Domingo, Sally Solis, Margarita Bonifacio and Ann Margaret Boyle.

Joining them are PTA vice president Sung Chon Hong as delegation head and coaches Tae Hyung Kim, Victor Emmanuel Veneracion, Manolo Gabriel and Manuel Sy.

Hong said the Filipinos are rated among the top contenders in the world tourney, which has lured 30 selected countries.

"The competition serves as a tuneup for the (Petron RP) team which will see action in the 14th Asian Games in Busan, Korea," said Hong.

Experts have also noticed the vast improvement of the Filipino jins since top Korean coach Tae Hyung Kim started training them more than two months ago.

"I expect the team to be in top shape when the Asian Games begin," said Hong of his wards, whose trip is sponsored by Petron and the Philippine Sports Commission. *Marc Reyes*

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Crispa beat Philips Sardines, 106-99, to capture the Philippine Basketball League Challenge Cup at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. Also today in 1992, Sta. Lucia Realty defeated Triple V, 85-69, to rule the PBL Maharlika Cup at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Reyes, Bustamante head 8-man pool team

EFREN "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante head a strong eight-man Philippine team competing in the 2002 World Pool Championship which blasts off on Saturday (July 13) in Cardiff, Wales.

Aside from Reyes and Bustamante, other Filipino cue artists who will vie for the title and the $56,000 (P3.25 million) prize that goes with it are Leonardo Andam, Lee Van Corteza, Warren Kiamco, Antonio Lining, Dennis Orcollo and Ramil Gallego.

"They are our country's best players," said sportsman Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, president of Puyat Sports. "Any one of them can win the title in the premier billiards tournament."

Gallego joined the seven pre-qualified Filipinos by making it through the qualifying round in Bristol. He defeated Canadian veteran Gerry Watson, 7-2, to secure his spot after beating English pool player Phil Harrison, 7-6, in the semis. Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat fell at the semifinal stage to young Welsh snooker pro Lee walker.

The main competition gets under way on July 13 with first round group play. It will be alternate breaks up to the finals on July 23.

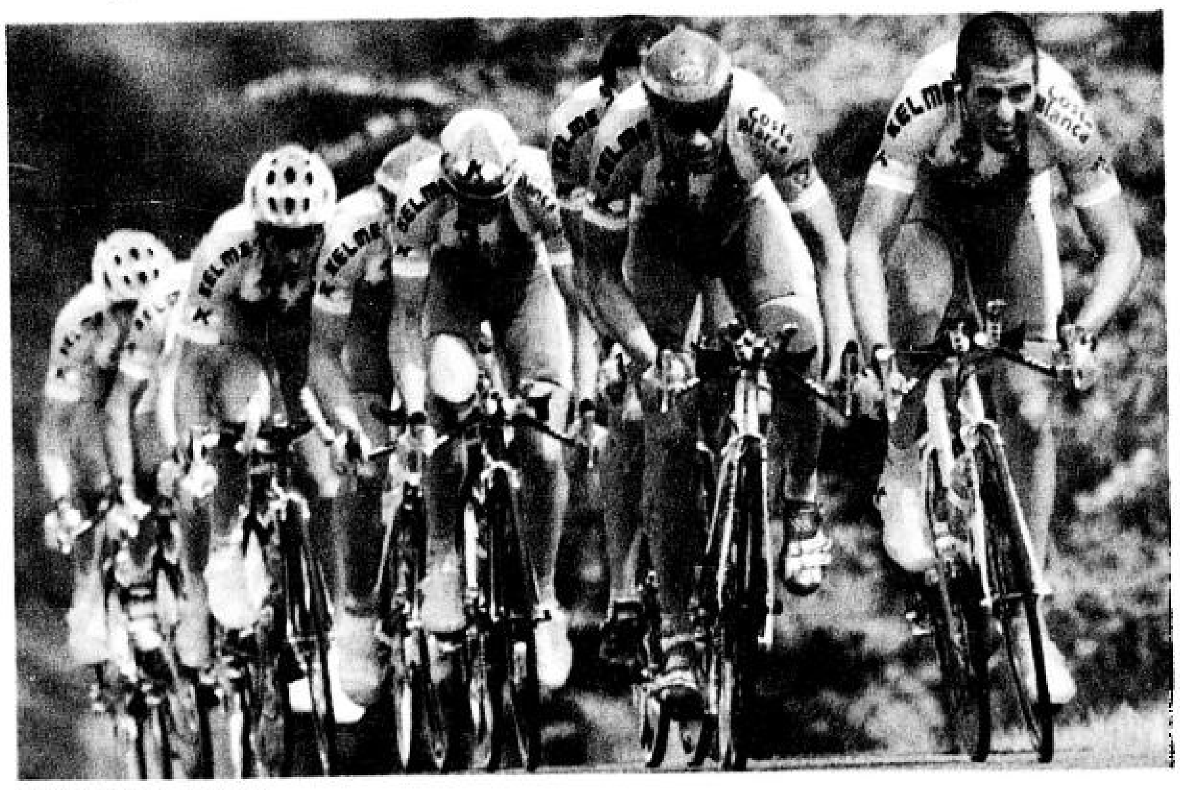
Except for Andam, Lining and Orcollo, whose groups included players from Chinese Taipei, the Filipinos appear to have the edge in the groupings.

Dennis Eroa

Schedule (live) on STAR Sports:

July 13 21:00 (L) Day 1, 1st round 1st session
July 14 02:00 (L) Day 1, 1st round 2nd session
July 14 22:00 (L) Day 2, 1st round 1st session
July 15 02:00 (L) Day 2, 1st round 2nd session
July 15 21:00 (L) Day 3, 1st round 1st session
July 16 02:00 (L) Day 3, 1st round 2nd session
July 16 21:00 (L) Day 4, 1st round 1st session
July 17 02:00 (L) Day 4, 1st round 2nd session
July 17 21:00 (L) Day 5, round of 64 1st session
July 18 02:00 (L) Day 5, round of 64 2nd session
July 18 21:00 (L) Day 6, round of 32 1st session
July 19 02:00 (L) Day 6, round of 32 2nd session
July 19 21:00 (L) Day 7, round of 16 1st session
July 20 02:00 (L) Day 7, round of 16 2nd session
July 20 21:00 (L) Day 8, quarterfinals, semifinals
July 21 02:00 (L) 10:00 (R) July 27 Day 8, semifinals
July 22 02:00 (L) 20:30 (R) July 23 Day 9, finals

(Hong Kong/Singapore time. chedule subject to change)



TEAM TIME TRIAL

Riders of the Kelme team, Antonio Tauler and Jose Enrique Guttierez, both from Spain (from right), show the way as they enter the village of Port a Binson, eastern France, during the fourth stage of the Tour de France, a 67.5 kilometer (42 miles) team time trial between Epernay and Chateau-Thierry on Wednesday. Spain's Once prevailed while the Lance Armstrong-led US Postal Service placed second. AP

Pinay golfer 5 shots ahead

TEMECULA–Multititled Jayvie Agojo of the Philippines opened her three-peat bid with a one-under-par 71 to storm ahead by a hefty five strokes at the start Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) of the Temecula International junior golf championships here.

The 15-year-old Agojo, unbeaten in the Class B (13-15 years) division the past two years, was the only player who cracked par at the SCGA Members Golf Club, one of the three courses being used for the 54-hole event.

The Filipino bets are flying the banner of Philippine Airlines and using the tourney as their final warm-up for next week's Junior World championships in nearby San Diego. The team also got a sterling performance from Jan Michael Yee who was only two strokes behind in Boys Class B.

Yee and China's Tong Hu carded a 76 to trail trail American Stephen Stallworth who showed the way with a 74.

Laguna breeders host Pasay derby

LAGUNA'S big-time gamefowl breeders Toto and Rey San Luis are hosting Pasay City Cockpit's 4-cock derby at 7 tonight where a handsome prize of P300,000 is at stake.

The duo, who belonged to the Rey San Luis entry that captured the PCCA Cocker of the Year award recently, said that more than 60 quality fights are in store for aficionados.

Meanwhile, the PCC 15th Anniversary 5-Cock derby blasts off next week, July 18 and 20, with about 150 participants seeing action.

PCC pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano explained that the submission of weights is strictly one day before derby. The first of more than 150 fights will start at 9 a.m. on July 18.

Interested parties may contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Django deserves slot in Asiad team

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

HIS winning record speaks for itself, proof enough that Francisco "Django" Bustamante deserves a slot in the Philippine billiards team that will see action in the Busan Asian Games in September. As the fabled Efren "Bata" Reyes said during last Tuesday's PSA Forum, "*Kung nandiyan si* Django *lamang na lamang tayo sa* pocket billiards (individual 9-ball and 8-ball and 9-ball doubles). *Mayroon ding* advantage *si* Django *sa ibang* teammates *ko sa* national team *dahil mas-matibay ang loob niya.*"

Added manager Rollie Vicente: "Why exclude Bustamante from the national team when the mere mention of his name makes the opposition tremble in fear?" However, despite his vaunted credentials, Bustamante is not in the Asian Games lineup submitted by the Snooker and Billiards Congress of the Philippines. And though the world-ranked Bustamante is available now, billiards officials said they could not accommodate him because there was no more room for another player in the Asiad team since the lineup has been completed. Already in the team are Reyes and Lee Van Corteza (8-ball) and Antonio Lining and Warren Kiamco (9-ball individual and 9-ball doubles).

Still, sports leaders should heed the popular clamor to include Bustamante in the national delegation because it is their responsibility and moral obligation to the Filipino people to send only the best in the Asian Games. For truly, Bustamante's inclusion in the team would help boost the Philippines' medal chances in the Asiad, where many world-class players whom Bustamante had beaten before are to see action.

Bustamante, now pushing 38, made a big impact on the international billiards scene when he was Named Player of the Year by the prestigious US-based magazine Billiards Digest in 1998. He launched his colorful career in 1987 by winning the Philippine Open, achieving the feat with his extraordinary long reach, booming breaks and creativity.

In 1990, he worked in Kiel, Germany, as a house pro at the poolroom of Rick's Café owned by his friend Yongky Purwita. He also acted as trainer of several teams sponsored by Purwita in the German circuit which built a solid reputation of always winning the big ones. After emerging victorious in the German Open and the Munich Masters in 1991, Bustamante embarked on the tougher US tour together with a powerhouse batch of Filipino pool pros that included his mentor and idol, Bata Reyes. The Philippine team, now much feared and respected in the history of billiards, was bankrolled and (still) supported by brothers Popit and Putch Puyat of Puyat Sports.

A school dropout like Reyes, Bustamante also became a dominant player in the international scene, winning one major tournament after another, including victories in Las Vegas, Nevada (Riviera Hotel 8-Ball Open), Oklahoma (Tulsa 9-Ball Championship) and Ohio (Columbus 10-Ball Open), all in 1998.

New theme song aims to fire up RP athletes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE FILIPINO athletes now have an official theme song which is hoped to fire them up during international competitions.

Titled "Saan Ka Man Lumaban," the song which talks about strength and honor which the athletes bring with them when competing abroad will be launched Aug. 9 in a concert featuring top pop artists at the Philsports Arena.

Written by Floy Quintos and Moy Ortiz, the song deals with the hardships the athletes had to endure in pursuit of the golden dream and how the county's pride is at the stake each time they compete.

The concert will be billed as Alay sa Gintong Medalya, a fund-raising event in behalf of the national delegation seeing action in the Busan Asian Games in September.

Project director Arsenic Lacson said tickets are selling like hotcakes at all SM TicketNet outlets with prices ranging from P100 to P800, something that encouraged the organizing Philippine Sports Commission.

"This goes to show that our countrymen are realizing that sports is part of our lives," said PSC chair Eric Buhain. "It's very encouraging and it will surely boost the morale of the national athletes."

The latest addition to the cast of artists who pledged to share their talents for the cause are multi-talented Vina Morales and comedian John Lapus. They will join the likes of Gary Valenciano, South Border, True Faith, Parokya ni Edgar, Mon Faustino, Powerplay, Sex Bomb Dancers, Jay Cayuca, RJ Rosales and the Casino Filipino Voice Symphony.

Sponsoring the event are the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation through chair Ephraim Genuino, Samsung Electronics, Centrum Vitamins, Air Philippines, WG&A Super Ferry, Philtranco, Brunswick-Bong Coo Sports, Peak Sports and Bank of Commerce.

Retuya, Borja share limelight

ROSARIO, Batangas—Shell Racing's Joel Retuya and teammate Mandy Borja shared the limelight anew after ruling separate Formula Toyota Cup races last weekend in the 2002 PCSO Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

The event was sanctioned by the Automotive Association of the Philippines (formerly PMA) and sponsored by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) Board of Governors, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Phil., MOF Shipping, Norkis-Yamaha, Marlboro, Casino Filipino, Kilton Motors Corporation and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through chair Honeygirl de Leon.

Retuya, a Cebu native who posted a time of 1:38.784 in the fifth lap, had a hard time warding off Borja in the early going until midway the 15-lap race where Borja's costly error paved the way for Retuya to pull ahead for the win.

He clocked 28:19.049 in claiming Race 5 to firm up his hold of solo leadership. Borja checked in 33.118 seconds later for the runner-up finish, while Victor Yap and TEC-Shell Racing's Carlo Pastor wound up third and fourth respectively.

"Well, it was a hassle-free run. Thanks to the preparation done by our Shell technical director Richard Joson on the car, that gave me driving confidence throughout. Mandy just had bad breaks, but I'm sure he'll try to get back in Race 6," quipped Retuya.

Super karting 6th leg slated

TOP contenders gun for crucial wins as they tackle the challenge of the upgraded track in the sixth leg of the 2002 Shell Karting Super Series this weekend at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Defending champion Pepon Marave of Futura Racing and Edgesports' Ryan Francisco will try to ward off equally talented rivals in a hope to fortify their respective title bids in this event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Casino Filipino, Bridgestone, Zed, Nokia, and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office headed by chair Honeygirl de Leon.

Marave, gunning for a historic third Karter of the Year plum, leads the premiere Formula-A class with 197 points but MOFO's Allan Uy is fast catching up with 171 points after two major upset wins.

Also hoping to beef up their title chances are Tuason Racing-Team Oxygen's Mike Tuason, GP-Kart Plaza's Jinky Cabilinan, Christian Sotton, Cebuano Jess Garcia and GP-Kart Plaza skipper Manny Sy.

Francisco, on the other hand, holds a precarious lead in the Intercon-A class with 156 points.

AP

KOBE AND WIFE

Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant (right) and his wife Vanessa pose with the Espy he accepted on behalf of the Lakers (best team) during the 10th annual Espy Awards, Wednesday, in Los Angeles. The Espy Awards recognize the top achievements and performers in sports.

No special treatment for Iverson

PHILADELPHIA—Prosecutors won't decide until Thursday at the earliest whether to charge Allen Iverson with storming into a home with a gun and threatening two men while looking for his wife.

Police, who want to arrest the NBA All-Star on charges ranging from aggravated assault to making terroristic threats, presented their case to the district attorney's office Wednesday in a meeting that lasted nearly three hours.

But prosecutors said they weren't ready to make a decision.

"By tomorrow, when I investigate this a little further, I'll be in a better position to make a statement," District Attorney Lynne Abraham said in a brief interview from Hershey, Pennsylvania, where she was attending a conference.

Abraham said Iverson would receive no special treatment.

"We treat everybody in this office the same. Whatever it is, that's what it is," she said.

Lt. Michael Chitwood, who met with prosecutors, called the delay "standard procedure."

"We have a few things we need to do. Stay tuned," he said. *AP*

Zoleta scores double kill in tennis tourney

BAMBIE Zoleta outlasted Julie Em Botor, 7-6, 6-3, to bag the girls' 14-under then stunned Ivy de Castro, 6-4, 6-2, in the girls' 16-under division to become a double champion at the close of the adidas Tennis Challenge 2002 at the Olivarez indoor courts.

Zoleta shared the limelight with Berry Sepulveda in the junior women's 21-under; Elbert Anasta in the junior men's 21-under; Sarah Jane Lim in the unisex 10-under; Gerard Ngo in the boys' 12-under; Raymond Villarete in the boys' 14-under; Erwin de Guzman in the boys' 16-under; and Julie Em Botor in the girls' 12-under.

Adidas trade and promo manager Goody Custodio graced the awarding ceremonies in the adidas netfest organized by CTW and supported by Milo and Sports Kids with sanction from Philta.

Sepulveda downed Bien Zoleta 6-3, 6-3; Anasta tripped Nino Salvador 6-3, 6-4; Lim mastered Akio Sy 6-2, 6-3; Ngo outsmarted Joshua Tan Ho 6-3, 6-2; Villarete clipped Christian Canlas 6-1, 6-2; De Guzman retired Kyle Dandan 6-1, 1-1; and Botor defeated Lim 6-2, 6-1.

RACING TIPS

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Race 2—1. Expresso 2. Pay Check 3. Native Talent

Race 3—1. May's Magic 2. Classy Babe 3. Storm Princess 4. Full Blast

Race 4—1. I Love You 2. Senor Raggaas 3. Free Time

Race 5—1. Nokaba 2. Strong Element 3. Expediter

Race 6—1. Grand Dancer 2. Silver Angel 3. Waving Oscar 4. Lucky Fil

Race 7—1. Pep Up 2. Armee's Hope 3. Rackstar 4. Two Thumbs Up 5. Deputy Parade

Race 8—1. D Greatest 2. He's Splendid 3. The Bronx

Race 9—1. Deputy Royale 2. Khan Caloo 3. Lord of All 4. Kay Rufina 5. Miss Anapat 6. Dynamite Miss

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: LPGA Wegmans Rochester International, Second Round at 7 a.m. on ESPN

CVS Charity Classic, Day Two at 9 a.m. on ESPN

PGA Advil Western Open Highlights at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Inside the PGA Tour at 3:30 p.m. (r – 7:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

LPGA Evian Masters, Second Round at 5 p.m. on Star Sports

BASKETBALL: Kobe Bryant - Destiny's Child at 7 p.m. (r) on ESPN

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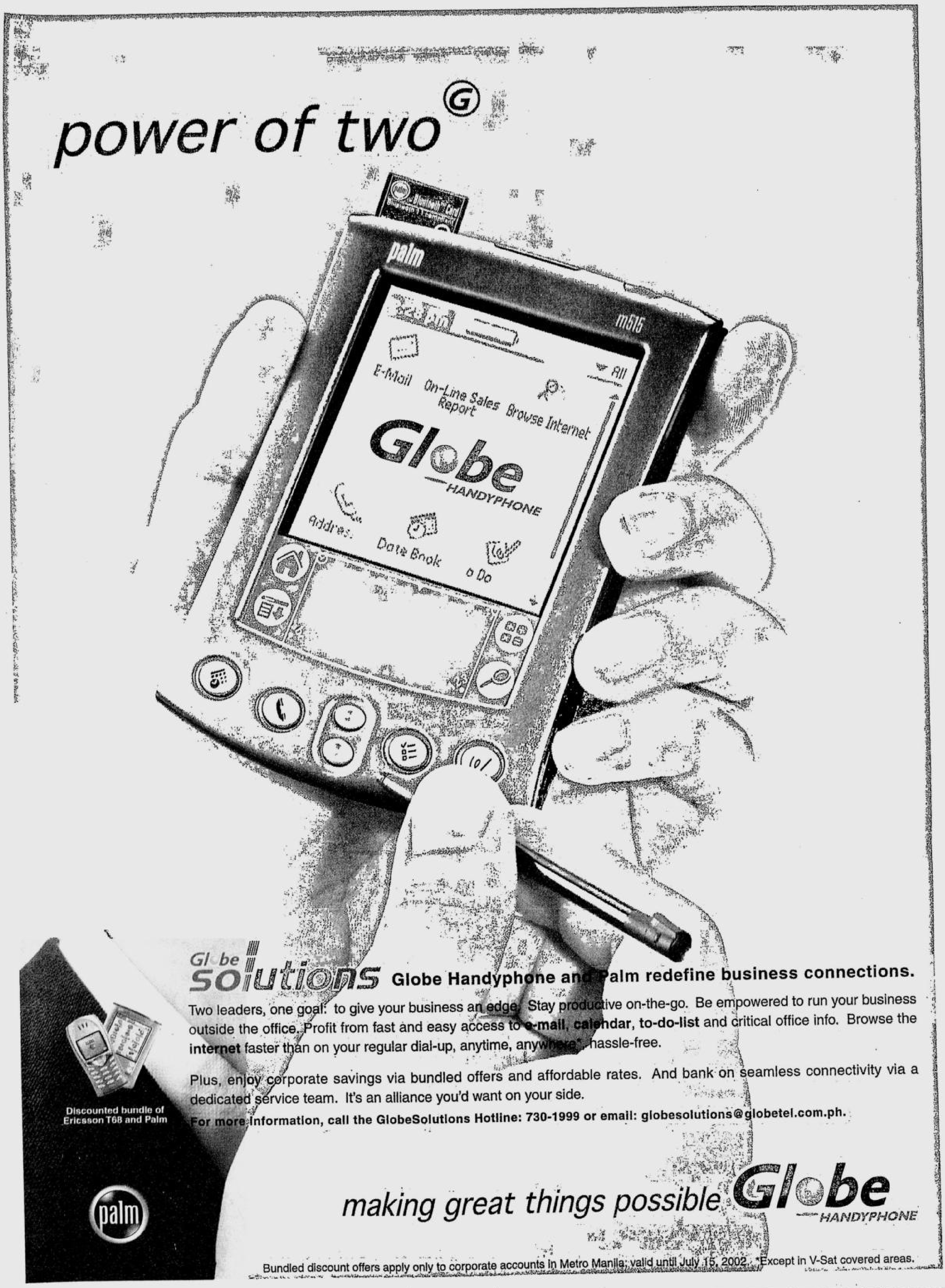
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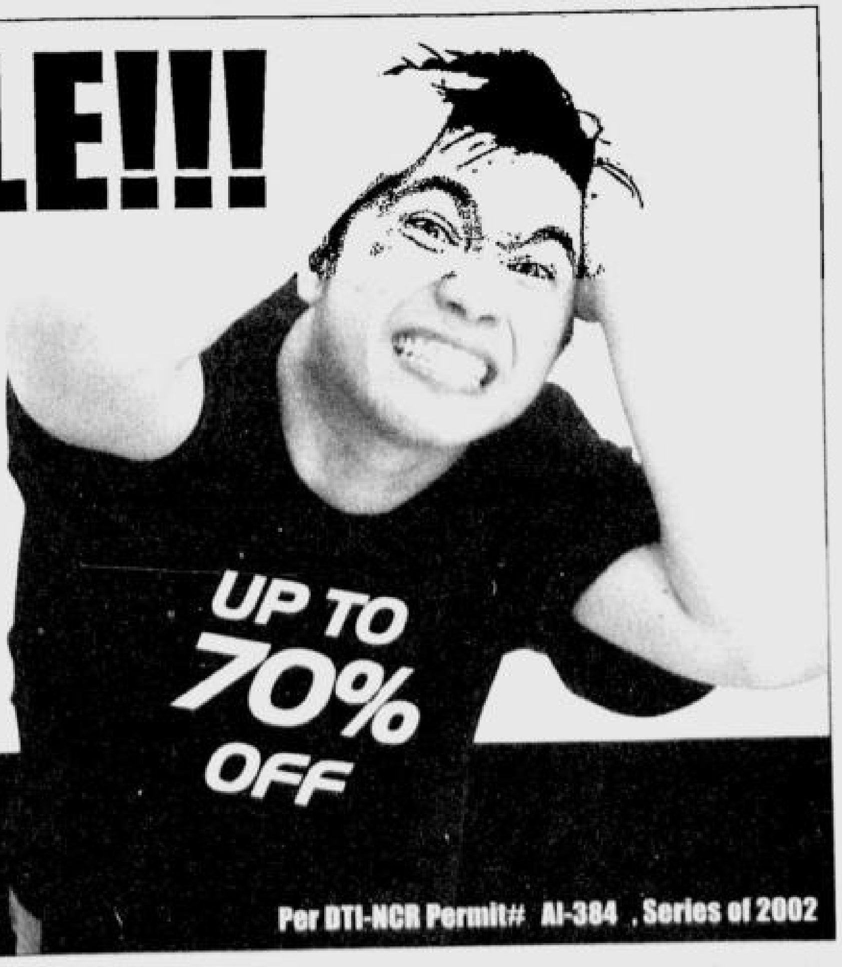

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☐ **4 doctors accused of causing patient's death** /A26

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METROBRIEFS

Killed in Holy Spirit

TO AVENGE the stabbing of a relative, three men shot and killed worker Jun Cedos in Quezon City on Monday, police said. Cedos, 24, of Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City, allegedly stabbed Benjamin Yutok at the Tajuna Funeral Homes, police said. The suspects, one of whom was identified as Wilfredo Tajuna, went to Cedos' house about 6:30 a.m. to confront him over the stabbing, but Cedos jumped out of a window and tried to escape. After a brief chase, they cornered Cedos and shot him in the abdomen. Cedos died at the General Malvar Hospital an hour later, police said. *Alcuin Papa*

Robbed in Malabon

THREE men took advantage of the bad weather Tuesday night and robbed a Shell gasoline station in Malabon. PO1 Reynaldo Gabatin said the trio arrived at the Shell gas station on Gov. Pascual Avenue, Potrero, Malabon, about 10 p.m. on board a maroon passenger jeepney. One of the men asked a gasoline attendant to fill up the jeep tank while the two other men got off and approached stay-in cashier Sonny Abasola, 23. The trio then drew .45-caliber pistols, announced the heist and took the day's earnings of P13,000, police said. *Tina Santos*

Washed ashore in Old Balara

THE BODY of pedicab driver Rolando Valencia was found on a Quezon City riverbank Wednesday morning, police said. Valencia, 28, of Barangay Ampid II, San Mateo, Rizal, was reported missing at the height of the storm on Sunday. His father, Dominador, told police he went looking for his son when he did not come home. The son reportedly told his father that, despite the weather, he would go out to work that day. That was the last time Dominador saw his son. Policemen believe that Valencia and his pedicab were carried to the river by the strong flood currents. *Alcuin Papa*

Arrested in Quezon City

BUSINESSMAN Rolando Baviera was arrested for extortion in Quezon City on Monday. Police said Baviera, 54, of Barangay Rodriguez, Quezon City, tried to extort money from nuclear technician Rosalinda Bisnar, 51, of Manresa, Quezon City. Bisnar complained to police that she applied for a loan with the M. S. Chan Realty and Lending Investors where Baviera works. But Bisnar was told that before she could get her loan, she must first give P10,000 to Baviera. Police arrested Baviera in an entrapment operation about 4:30 p.m. Monday on the second floor of the Rustan's Supermarket in Cubao. Policemen recovered from him P1,000 in cash and a BPI check for P9,000 issued by Bisnar. Charges of robbery and extortion have been filed against Baviera before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office. *Alcuin Papa*

Stabbed on Katipunan

PO1 Jasper Gabato of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force was seriously injured when he was stabbed by the jealous lover of a guest relations officer early Wednesday morning in Quezon City. Gabato, 37, assigned to the SAF headquarters in Fort Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, is said to be one of the guards watching over former ARMM governor Nur Misuari in prison, police said. Policemen arrested vendor Rodolfo Antonio, 33, of Barangay Pansol, Quezon City, for stabbing Gabato in the back at about 1 a.m. at the corner of Katipunan Avenue and the Balara Filter plant. Antonio told police that Gabato and his cousin Jimmy harassed a GRO in a nightclub earlier that evening. The woman turned out to be Antonio's girlfriend. Antonio said he looked for the Gabatos and, when he found them waiting for a ride on Katipunan, challenged them to a fight. Police caught the suspect after he stabbed Gabato and punched the cousin. *Alcuin Papa*

Gunned down in Caloocan

POLICE are hunting down Michael Luna, said to be a policeman's nephew, for allegedly killing construction worker Rodolfo Guevarra over a woman they were both courting in Caloocan City before dawn yesterday. Guevarra, 29, of R. Santiago Street, Caloocan, was shot several times and died on the spot, police said. Guevarra's mother Bernadette told police they were awakened at 12:10 a.m. during a heavy downpour, when Luna started throwing stones at their house. Luna, 23, of 8th Avenue, Grace Park, Caloocan, said to be the leader of the BST street gang, challenged Guevarra to come out and shot him as soon as he stepped out of the house, police said. According to police, Luna has killed at least four people. He is the nephew of a senior police officer assigned to the Police Community Relations of the city police. *Tina Santos*

4 St. Luke's docs accused of causing patient's death

By Agnes E. Donato

FOUR doctors of St. Luke's Medical Center yesterday were charged before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office for the death of a woman following surgery last year.

The family of Teresita de la Cruz filed charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide against doctors Alejandro Diaz, Bienvenido Aldanese, Jonnel Lim, and James Pauig.

In a phone interview, Dr. Diaz said he was not aware that a case had been filed against him.

Rizabel Cloma-Santos, associate director of corporate affairs at St. Luke's Hospital, also declined to give a statement. She said hospital officials have not yet seen the charge sheet and cannot comment on the issue.

De la Cruz, 51, died on Oct. 1, 2001 after surgery for a tumor at the back of her head.

In their complaint, the five members of De la Cruz's family accused the doctors of "gross negligence, carelessness and lack of foresight ... in examining the deceased."

They said De la Cruz consulted Dr. Diaz in early September 2001 after she felt numbness in the right hand, arm, chest and back. Diaz reportedly examined the patient and prescribed slimming medicines to reduce her weight of 238 lbs.

He also advised De la Cruz to undergo magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) at St. Luke's where Diaz is also holding office, the complainants said.

MRI results reportedly showed that De la Cruz had a tumor outside her skull. She was advised to choose between laser and manual surgery. She chose the latter, the family said in their complaint.

The doctor also reportedly told the patient not to worry and gave her two months to prepare, as the tumor was growing slowly. But the complainants said De la Cruz requested that the operation be scheduled right away, as Dr. Diaz assured her it would be "a simple incision in the nape" and would only take "four to five hours."

The four respondents conducted the operation on Sept. 25, 2001.

"When the surgical operation was being conducted... we became worried and apprehensive because (it) lasted more than 15 hours," the complainants said.

They said they were "surprised" to see the head of De la Cruz had been shaved and her skull drilled without the family's consent.

Later, "the attending physicians (told) us that the tumor was inside the skull and that the cerebellum had to be removed," they said.

"As it turned out, the tumor was inside the skull and attached to the brain, which required a more delicate and sensitive surgery," the family said.

"Had the tumor been properly examined and detected and the surgical operation not done by the respondents, the deceased could still be living by this time, as the respondents assured us that the tumor was not dangerous because it was slowly growing and was located outside the skull," the family members said.

Defensor appeals sacking of 7 cops

HOUSING and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Chair yesterday appealed to the National Police Commission to reconsider its decision to suspend seven policemen from Quezon City for their campaign against professional squatting.

"The suspension of the policemen sends a different message," Defensor said in a statement. "What these cops did is consistent with what the President has instructed us to do, to apprehend and prosecute professional squatters and squatting syndicates. Why punish them?"

Defensor said that he would personally talk to Interior Secretary Joey Lina, who is the concurrent Napolcom chief, to ensure that the policemen would be given due process.

The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) suspended the policemen for three months following the demolition of squatter shanties in North Fairview, Quezon City. The demolition was carried out on the orders of the Central Police District director, Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor, and Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte.

The seven policemen are Supt. Valentin Santacera, chief, Lagro police station; Chief Insp. Eddie Arajil, SPO2s Romeo Pascual and Pedro Bernabe; SPO1 Rolando Cristobal; and PO2s Edgar Lopez and James Bugho.

"They deserve commendation for their sense of duty...not suspension," Defensor said.

Story of a successful junkyard

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THIS is about a junkyard. The success story of a junkyard.

That murky, monstrous wasteland in our village (Vergara in Mandaluyong) along the Pasig, thank God, has undergone a facelift.

Dirty, stinking mess has given way to brightness.

An entirely new and lively place will be inaugurated with a few songs, some food, laughter and wine this afternoon.

The junkyard, thanks to the combined efforts of barrio residents, has generously slipped out of sight.

It has metamorphosed into a park.

Not a mere park, a park with a great view!

The place is also a playground, a promenade, an open space for group prayers, studies and gatherings.

It could even be a mini-Luneta where the young at heart could sit on the dike and hold hands after dusk.

***

Thankful residents will not hesitate to confirm that the riverside park has come as a bonus, an off-season gift to their families.

Gladness, of course, is greater among majority of residents in the depressed areas who have suddenly found a public sala to stretch their tired limbs, enjoy sun and clean breeze, away from the cramped, airless cages they try to call home.

From the park, the visitor gets to observe a refreshing frame of the Pasig River: the swift, lively western bend, a brick, European-style chimney defined by lush tree branches, hanging like mythical curtains, at the *ibayo*, the opposite side of the waterway which was among Dr. Jose Rizal's favorites.

The view, no doubt, could easily be rated as an artist's delight.

***

Rather funny, but residents and passers-by were unanimously amazed when they woke up one morning last summer to discover that there indeed was a lovely river out there.

Not to say that the happy transformation happened overnight.

It all started when pesky middle-aged fellows from Barangay Vergara joined hands to try and put up a park and also give back the river to the people.

Actually, before it deteriorated into a blackish, sooty, monstrous obstruction, the junkyard had served as assembly plant for heavy-duty trucks run by one of Vergara's successful sons.

When the plant closed shop, what was left were all the assorted debris, useless, rusty, contorted metal sheets, numberless old tires, a gigantic iron box, sheer trash and other ugly matters that converged to block that once great village window to the Pasig.

***

Luck did play a role in the project, but virtues like selflessness and determination proved the key toward the success of the community project.

Luck because the owner of the vast riverside lot turned out to be a kindhearted trader, Ruperto C. Tan, president of Eterton Multi-Resources Inc.

Through the intercession of Councilor Rene Sta.Maria, city administrator Vic Victoria, civic leader Nandy Charvet and city accountant Elmer Santos, Tan lent the idle lot to members of Samahang Alige in Vergara.

No time was wasted. Mon Tulfo readily issued a check. Lito Casal, tested builder and son of famous sculptor Manuel Casal Sr., gathered a work force, after having asked his friend Nover to provide the blue print.

Mayor Benhur Abalos asked Dading Daylo, sanitation and environmental officer, to give total support to the project.

Mando Acosta and Bio Quimson lent heavy equipment needed to build fences over the thick concrete floor. Jake de Jesus of General Electric donated big, expensive bulbs, while Welcoat provided paints.

Several hired hands, like masons and electricians, were taken in. But as a whole, it was the tireless efforts of the barrio people, who worked *bayanihan* style, that pushed what could be called a surgical job to a beautiful conclusion.

***

Of course, a mere facelift was not enough. After she was driven to the place by journalist Peter Sing, prime mover of the project, Jamby Madrigal realized its potential to benefit poor residents. She bought full-grown trees that were planted around the area. Bambi Revilla, scion of the original PLDT owners, together with environmentalist Toots Ople, chipped in.

The list of supporters included MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, who inspected the area and donated concrete seats and lampposts, and Clifford Espinosa, who did the landscaping and worked with pike and shovel under the sun.

Today, shortly after 5 p.m., National Artist for Literature Nick Joaquin will go back close to the river, which he had crossed ala Johnny Weismuller during his teens, to judge how fine a surgical job the village people have performed.

Senator Blas Ople, who also bought one of the trees for the park, has promised to come if he is able to untangle himself from commitments.

Joining them is Col. Antonio Cabangon Chua, a native son who, as a barefoot kid, dove and scoured the depths of the Pasig to catch fish for a living.

Just like Nick Joaquin, he wanted to see for himself how a group of hardy village surgeons had succeeded in turning a summer eyesore into an all-weather wonder.

Gordon suspends 2 tourist policemen for grave threats

TWO members of the tourist police force were arrested yesterday after they allegedly refused to pay their bill and threatened to harm a waiter of a videoke bar in Caloocan City.

Alex Lazaro, 32, of Tinajeros, Malabon, and Lawrence Alcantara, 30, of Valenzuela City, were also placed under preventive suspension by Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon.

Lazaro and Alcantara were arrested after Romeo Zamora, 25, a waiter at Love Boat KTV Bar and Restaurant, filed a complaint of grave threats against them.

The two tourist policemen were in the videoke bar on McArthur Highway when Zamora asked them to pay their bill at 1:30 a.m. yesterday, said PO2 Edgar Manapat. The two men refused to pay and Lazaro even pulled out his gun and poked it at Zamora.

Gordon said he was displeased that tourist policemen illegally carried their service firearms after their tour of duty. He ordered that Lazaro and Alcantara face a formal inquiry by his department's discipline committee.

"Guns and liquor don't mix," Gordon said. "We will throw the book at them."

Tina Santos

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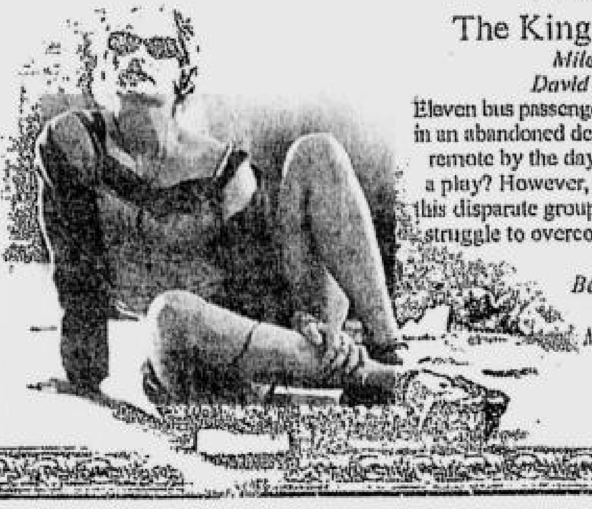

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Miles Anderson, Romane Bohringer, David Bradley & Jennifer Jason Leigh

Eleven bus passengers take shelter from the elements in an abandoned desert town. As rescue grows more remote by the day an idea emerges: why not stage a play? However, the choice of King Lear plunges this disparate group of travelers into turmoil as they struggle to overcome nature's wrath and their own mortality.

Best Actress (Leigh), 2000 Tokyo International Film Festival

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6 GOLD (SDDS)	MINORITY REPORT
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Dilson	SUGAT
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Jennet	

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2	HIGH CRIME
3	MINORITY REPORT

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3	

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1	HINOG SA PILIT
2	RESERVE

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1	SUGAT
2	MINORITY REPORT

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2 (DTS)	FOREVERMORE
3 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
4	SLACKERS

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4	

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3 (DTS)	JUST VISITING
4	FOREVERMORE
5	KATAWAN MO

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3	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

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4	PANIC ROOM

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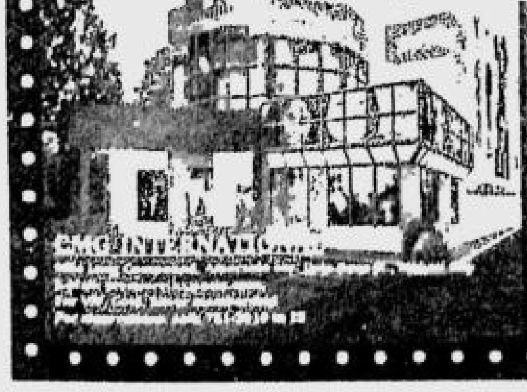

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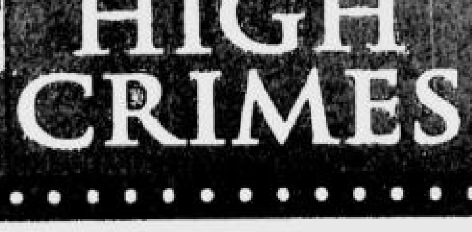

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8	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

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4	SLACKERS
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7	MINORITY REPORT
8	SUM OF ALL FEARS
9	BAD COMPANY
10	JUST VISITING

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

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1	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
2	JUST VISITING
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4	BAD COMPANY
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11	SLACKERS
12	KATAWAN MO . . .

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6	MINORITY REPORT
7	JUST VISITING
8	SLACKERS
9	FOREVERMORE
10	SUGAT
11	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
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2	POWERPUFF GIRLS
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12	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

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9295452

1	BAD COMPANY
2	MINORITY REPORT
3	SUGAT
4	FOREVERMORE
5	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
6	POWERPUFF GIRLS
7	HIGH CRIMES
8	BIG FAT LIAR
9	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM SOUTHMALL

8006888

1	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
2	BAD COMPANY
3	POWERPUFF GIRLS
4	BIG FAT LIAR
5	SCOOBY DOO
6	SUM OF ALL FEARS
7	FOREVERMORE
8	HIGH CRIMES
9	MINORITY REPORT
10	SUGAT

SM CITY CEBU

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1	BAD COMPANY
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
4	BENEATH LOCHNESS
5	TAMPISAW
6	RESIDENT EVIL
7	FOREVERMORE
8	MINORITY REPORT

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	FOREVERMORE
2	CLOSED
3	FRUIT IS SWELLING
4	BAD COMPANY
5	MINORITY REPORT
6	MONSTER'S BALL
7	CLOSED
8	RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY PAMPANGA

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1	MINORITY REPORT
2	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
3	JUST VISITING
4	A WALK TO REMEMBER
5	TAMPISAW
6	FOREVERMORE

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1	FOREVERMORE
2	HIGH CRIMES
3	POWERPUFF GIRLS
4	MINORITY REPORT

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1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
2	POWERPUFF GIRLS
3	FOREVERMORE
4	MINORITY REPORT

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	BAD COMPANY
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3	FOREVERMORE
4	KATAWAN MO . . .
5	MONSTER'S BALL
6	RESIDENT EVIL

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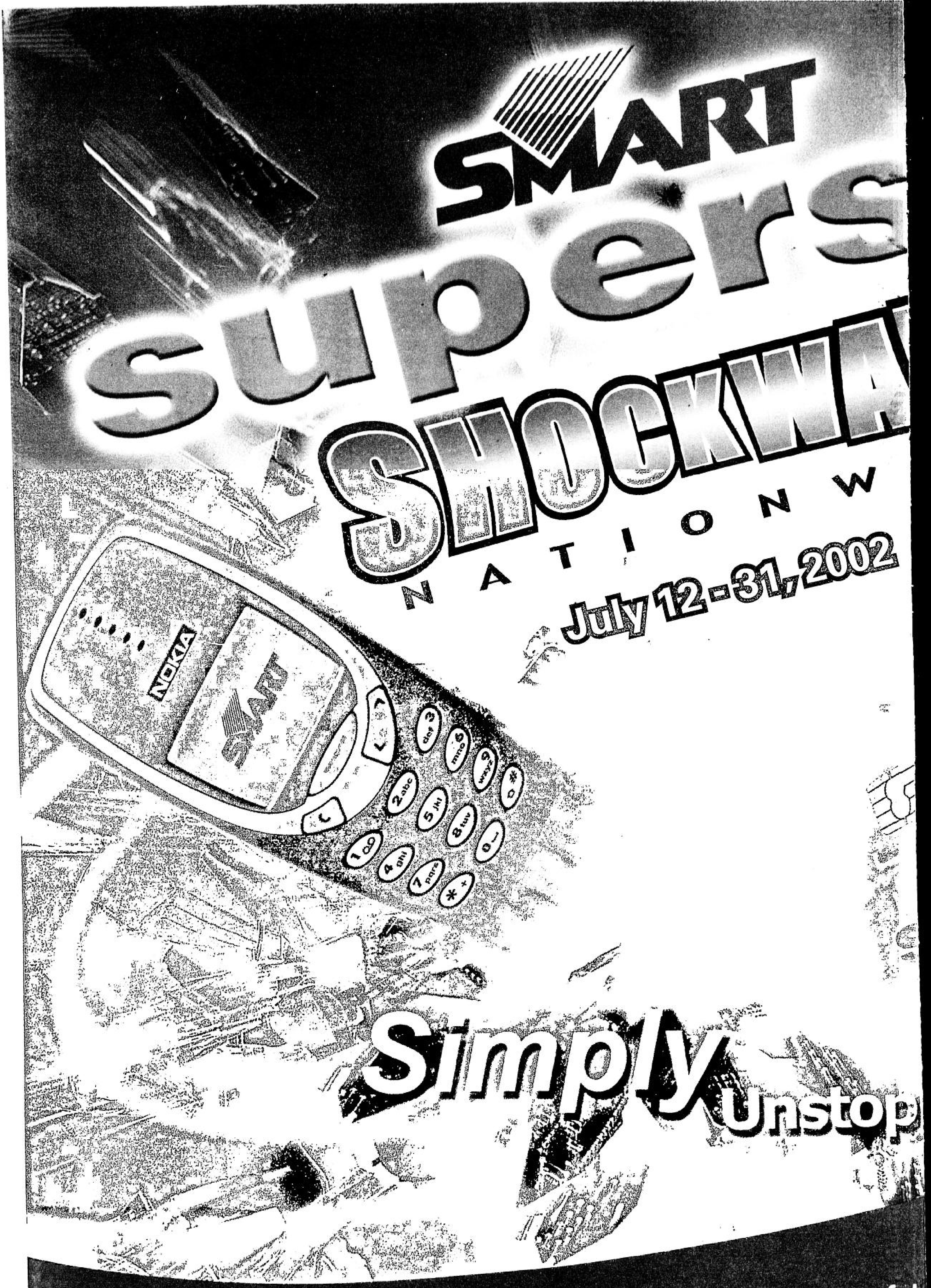

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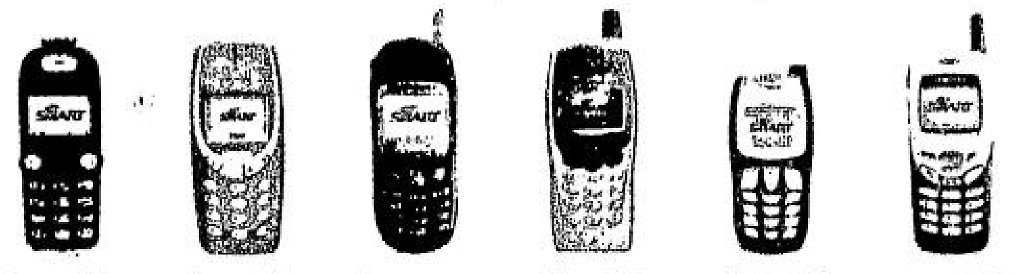

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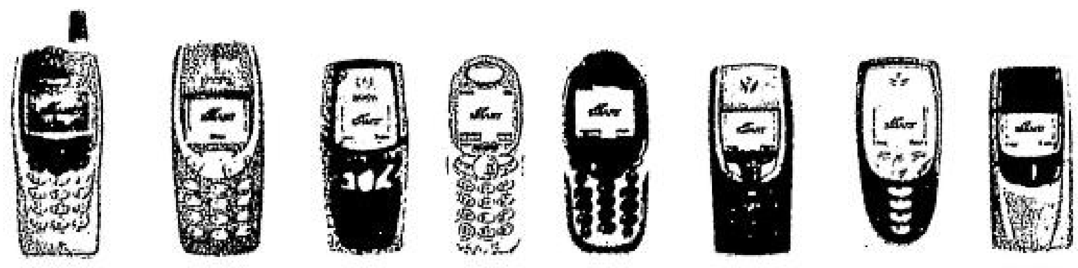

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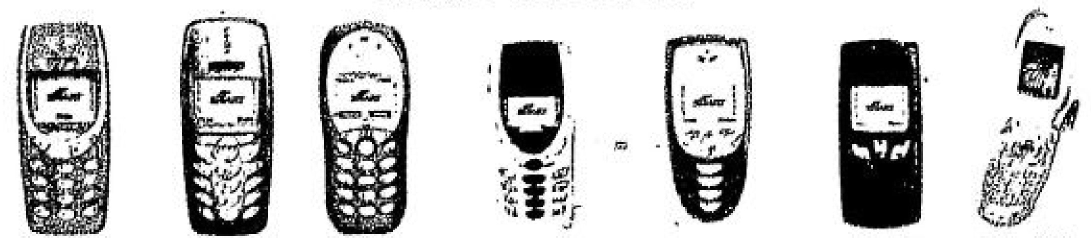

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Lea hits mainstream US market

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

EVEN before she could start rehearsals this August for the Broadway production of "Flower Drum Song," **Lea Salonga** already has her calendar filled up till early 2004.

Lea, who is now taking a much-needed rest in Los Angeles, will return to the Broadway stage when "Flower Drum Song" starts its official run in Oct. 17.

She signed up for a 10-month contract to do the revival of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, which has been given a new book by "M. Butterfly" playwright **David Henry Hwang**.

According to a source, tickets to the musical have been sold out for the first three months.

When Lea ends her Broadway performances, she only has a month to rest before she goes on a worldwide tour for her Broadway concert.

A Manila-based company, Trans-Continental Entertainment Asia, will bring the concert to major cities in the United States, with Lea performing in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Honolulu.

David DeCamillis, a director of Trans-Continental Entertainment Asia, told the Inquirer that his company is also representing Lea for the worldwide booking of the Broadway concert.

"There are plans to also bring the show around Asia (Hong Kong, Singapore and Bangkok) and Europe (Stuttgart, Paris and London)," DeCamillis said. "The last stop will be significant for Lea because it was in London where it all started for her."

Trans-Continental Entertainment Asia is the regional counterpart of the US-based talent management and production outfit, Trans Continental Atlantic, owned by **Lou Pearlman**.

Pearlman discovered and developed boy bands like Backstreet Boys, O-Town and N'Sync. His latest protégé is the five-man group, Natural, which was in Manila last January to launch their debut single, "Put Your Arms Around Me."

DeCamillis informs Lea's Broadway concert tour will not be marketed in the same way that the other shows of Filipino artists are promoted in the US.

"Lea is the first Asian artist to be promoted in the mainstream performing arts scene in the US," DeCamillis said. "Her shows will be staged in venues where 'Miss Saigon' was presented. Depending on the demand, we may do more than one show for each city."

In all the shows, Lea will be accompanied by a live orchestra to be conducted by her younger brother **Gerard**.

The US concert tour will start in the fall of 2003, according to DeCamillis.

"Our ultimate goal of bringing Lea's Broadway concert to a worldwide tour is to break in other Asian artists to the mainstream market," DeCamillis says. "Lea has a following in the US and Europe. Hopefully, she can open the doors for other artists to also be recognized in the international scene."

With "Flower Drum Song" in Broadway and the US concert tour, Lea will definitely be missed in the country for a long time.

"This will be the first Christmas that she (Lea) can't come home," laments Lea's mom, **Ligaya Salonga**.

"But if Mohammed can't go to the mountain, then the mountain will go to Mohammed," she smilingly adds.

LEA Salonga with boyfriend Robert Ch on (left) and concert director Bobby Garcia during the repeat of the Broadway concert at the PICC last month. PHOTO COURTESY OF PRECY FLORENTINO

Standing ovation

SINGER-SONGWRITER **Jose Mari Chan** returned from a successful concert at Connecticut's Foxwoods Casino, the largest in the world, where he was accorded with a standing ovation.

It was the first time for Joe to perform in Connecticut in a show produced by the Filipino community there. His concert was at the 4,000-seater Foxwoods Theater inside the sprawling casino-resort. The venue is very accessible to people from Boston, Rhode Island, New York and New Jersey, who drove to Connecticut to watch the concert.

"Thank God, it was a great show," said Joe in his note sent to me. "It's very heartwarming that our *kababayans* living abroad truly appreciate our music and they drove for miles to watch us."

CHAN. Success in Connecticut.

Joe reiterates that Foxwoods is indeed the largest casino in the world.

"One day, you ought to see it," he said. "It's within the Pequot Indian reservation and is not subject to Federal income tax. In summer, an estimated 50,000 people go there everyday."

Joe manages to accommodate occasional performances abroad even when he is busy running his family's sugar business in the country.

'One2One' repeat

TYPHOON Gloria raged in Metro Manila last July 5. But **Gary Valenciano**'s electrifying energy took over the Hard Rock Café, with a force more powerful than the storm itself.

Gary ignited the Hard Rock stage for his "One2One" concert and the full-house crowd instantly felt his energy. His opening number, "Celebration," gave the audience an idea on what to expect for the next one-and-a-half hour.

The show carried a festive air, reminiscent of Gary's previous concerts. Once more, he lived up to his title of being the local music industry's "Mr. Pure Energy."

The concept of the concert was drawn from Gary's latest album, "One2One," which was also the show's title. The album, his first for Viva Records, is a collection of duets with the country's top female singers such as **Kuh Ledesma, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Lani Misalucha, Bituin Escalante** and **Kyla**.

Kyla was Gary's special guest at Hard Rock that night and they rendered the revival of the Jose Mari Chan original, "Stop and Talk a While."

Gary's other guest was **May-An Casal** and their rapport onstage was undeniable. Gary explained in his spiel that May-An is his high school friend and backup singer since 1983.

"May-An and I have gone through a lot," Gary said. "We shared all the joys and pains in life. She is one of my dearest friends."

The show carried on with Gary's signature hits like "Hang On," "Di Na Natuto," "Paano," "Until Then" and "Reaching Out." The show's musical director, **Mon Faustino**, gave new arrangements to Gary's hits without compromising the original sound and groove that turned the songs into OPM classics.

Gary's awesome energy was remarkable that night, as he unleashed a non-stop medley of '70s tunes ("If I Can't Have You," "I Will Survive," "More Than a Woman," "September" and "Heaven on the 7th Floor"), Latin songs ("Smooth," "Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing" and "Oye Como Va?") and **Michael Jackson** hits ("Rock With You," "Off the Wall," "Black or White" and "Shake Your Body").

"One2One" will have a repeat tonight at Hard Rock, with **Bituin Escalante** as Gary's special guest.

VALENCIANO. Rocks the Hard Rock Café stage.

More child psychologists needed in the MTRCB

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

NOW that a new chairperson of the Movie Television Review and Classification Board has been named by President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**, it's time to once more re-think the board's composition.

In the past, members were designated to represent various sectors of society, since those sectors have a stake in the board's execution of its mandate.

In actual practice, however, some MTRCB members have been designated who aren't really leaders or excellent representatives of any sector.

Their claim to fame and "expertise?" Their being relatives of influential people whom the appointing authority wished to please, placate or reward.

Thus, the MTRCB has sometimes been composed of two kinds of members—film experts from the industry or the academe, and holders of synecures who may not know how to evaluate a film on point of audience suitability.

This division has led to some of the major problems that the board has chronically experienced in the past. Will these problems persist under its new chairperson, Ms. Marilen Dinglasan? It depends on the new members who will be chosen this September, or even sooner.

This early, we would like to suggest that the MTRCB reassess its priorities. To our mind, its principal function is to protect minors from potentially disturbing or harmful TV-film fare.

Thus, the most important job at hand is to appoint members who can evaluate which productions are disturbing or harm to kinds, and which are not.

For this reason, the MTRCB should have a significant number of members who are child psychologists or counselors, people who are professionally trained to evaluate these key matters. Others may be concerned about young viewers' welfare, but child psychologists and counselors know best.

What about adult viewers? Since they're adults, they should be able to decide for themselves which TV or movie productions they want to see. It's the vulnerable youth whom we must protect, so the choice of new MTRCB members should be focused on this central function.

Sitcoms forever

THE Star World channel has some of the best new sitcoms on the tube:

"The King of Queens" (Mondays at 8 p.m., Tuesdays at 11 a.m.) is about the comic travails of much-put-upon Doug, whose house has been taken over by his father-in-law, Arthur, who has some pretty unusual habits. Doug's television room has become Arthur's bedroom, and Doug, his sports-watching buddies and the TV set have been relegated to the garage.

"The Drew Carey Show" (Wednesdays at 8 p.m., Thursday at 11 a.m.) is based on **Carey**'s humorous outlook on life. It is a fast-paced comedy depicting the life of a single guy who's just trying to have some fun.

Dew's social circle consists of three best friends and, to his regret, an office foe named Mimi Bobeck, who is a nonstop source of aggravation at the department store where they work.

Since its premiere, "The Drew Carey Show" has set the pace for innovative comedy. During the show's debut season, Carey was awarded a People's Choice Award for best actor in a new series.

Flavorless comedies, mere 'time-killers'

From page A31

CIA going after a rogue nuclear bomb and both have the fate of America depending on just one CIA agent (it is scary as well as laughable, isn't it?).

"The Sum of All Fears" is of course the other, more superior film particularly because of three things. First, it at least tries to explain how the nuclear bomb ended up in the United States; second, it doesn't have the exploitative "countdown" before the bomb explodes; and third, at least it has the guts to pull the trigger and set off an explosion.

"Just Visiting" also has its betters, none allegedly more superior than its predecessor, the 1993 French farce, "Les Visiteurs." I say allegedly because I never saw the film, nor am I sure if it was ever shown here. It had the same stars (Reno and Clavier), the same director (Jean-Marie Poire) and practically the same writers (Clavier and Poire).

Reports about the original said it effectively served its humor together with incisive commentaries about social classes and history. This is something the American version (with the writing assistance of John Hughes of "Home Alone," "Breakfast Club," "Ferris Bueller's Day Off") seems to have retained very little of, although it does have a subplot involving the servants' quest for freedom.

While not exactly lame excuses for filmmaking, "Bad Company" and "Just Visiting" are flavorless comedies that best exemplify the term "time-killers."

If you've got nothing better to do with four hours of your life, then by all means, see these movies. But I must warn you: The four hours would certainly seem a lot longer.

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'BAD COMPANY' AND 'JUST VISITING'

Flavorless comedies, mere 'time-killers'

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.

REVIEW

"BAD Company" and "Just Visiting" may have different stories, they may belong to two distinct comedy genres (one is a comedy thriller, the other more of the slapstick kind), but skim the surface of the two films and you'll find more similarities than in a couple of toothpaste commercials.

How are they similar? Let me count the ways.

Both films are from Disney. Both feature odd male couples that are supposed to exhibit engaging and hilarious chemistries.

In "Bad Company," a super-serious CIA senior spy played by Anthony Hopkins and a goofy street hustler played by Chris Rock are buddies.

"Just Visiting" has noted French actors Jean Reno and Christian Clavier playing a 12th century French count and his valet; respectively.

Both films have fish-out-of-water themes. Rock's Jake Hayes is recruited into the CIA to replace his long-lost twin brother whom he's never heard about because they were separated at birth and grew up with widely diverse social backgrounds. Because the fate of America hangs in the balance (as usual), the small-time con artist has to be transformed into the suave and sophisticated black James Bond that his brother was, in nine days!

So in nine days he gets some major discipline kicked into him by Sir Anthony, has a wardrobe makeover, gets trained in wine tasting, learns Czech (Prague was his brother's spying stomping ground), cigar-rolling, antique-dealing (his brother's cover) and a whole lot of other things that he doesn't get to use in the film anyway, except for nuclear disarmament 101 (I'll explain later).

All this is good for a few laughs, emphasis on few.

Tiring

"Just Visiting" actually has two fishes. Reno's Count Thibault of Malfete and Clavier's Andre are about to be transported through time by a wizard (Malcolm McDowell) back to the fateful night when the count, after drinking a witch-concocted potion placed in his wine by a jealous rival, killed his betrothed Rosalind (Christina Applegate).

Thibault is determined to make things right but the wizard messes up the spell and so the count and his valet end up in modern-day Chicago instead.

Thus they have to contend with modern conveniences like cars, toilets, telephones, TV and a free society. They have no idea what a toilet is, so they drink from it and wash their faces in it.

Andre mistakes a urinal cake for mints. They thrash an SUV, all the while thinking they're slaying a dragon. They smash a TV hoping to liberate the people trapped inside.

Amusing at first, the gags soon devolve into sketch pieces that are more tiring than uproarious. We've seen better versions of these two films before. The cliched white-guy, black-guy dynamic duo has been better fleshed out, for instance, by the wise-cracking Eddie Murphy and the straight-faced Nick Nolte in "48 Hours." The buddy structure was more believable, the action, more gripping, and you actually cared about the characters and how they were going to make it through their adversities.

Another example is "Lethal Weapon," starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover. It shows how the right kind of chemistry between the two male leads can make a film like this work.

Exquisite

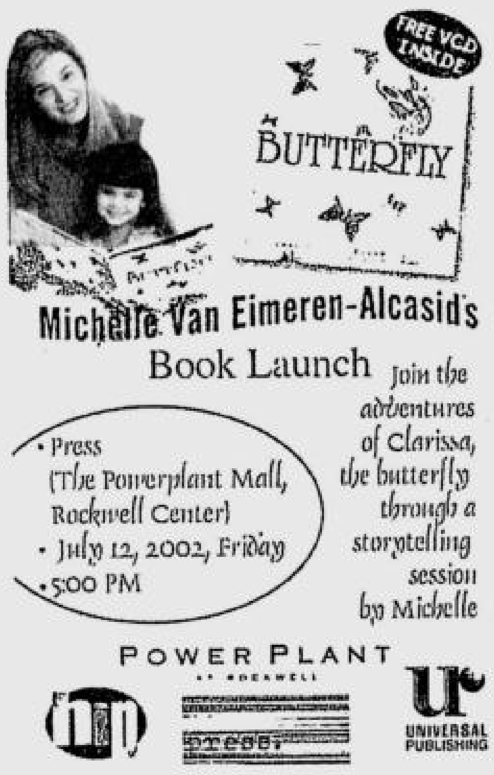
In contrast to Gibson and Glover, Hopkins and Rock seem like just a couple of actors trying to earn a paycheck, with Hopkins earning it deservedly (like Morgan Freeman, Hopkins is exquisite even in a bad film) and Rock being grossly overpaid (he basically has two facial expressions).

"Bad Company" is the second film I've seen in less than a month whose action climax plays on America's fears of a nuclear bomb exploding on their shores. Interestingly, both films involve the

FLAVORLESS/ A30

SLAPSTICK. Jean Reno (right) as the French nobleman and Christian Clavier as his servant in "Just Visiting."

DYNAMIC. Anthony Hopkins (right) and Chris Rock in "Bad Company."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2. Sumampong, Mae Kristin	Booy District Tagbilaran City Bohol
3. Aguillo, Liza M.	Brgy 16 Bacolod City
4. Mesias, Marilou P.	93 Gustilo St. La Paz, Iloilo City
5. Anog, Pantalion	Honey's Chicken & BBQ Galo Gatuslao St. Bacolod City

MINDANAO	
1. Galo, Rowena, S.	329-1 D. Ponce St. 8000 Davao City
2. Jimenez, Joelinda R.	YCF Vill. Fatima Agdao Davao City
3. Iniego, Merrylyn O.	Purok 25 Maa Peoples Village Davao City
4. Manos, Arlyn R.	c/o Manos Electronics Sabayle St. Iligan City
5. Aguro, Steve John G.	95 Gabay St. Terryhills Subd. Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City

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4. Burgos Jr., Fulgencio C.	4 Pagasa At. CAA Cmpd. Pasay City
5. Vilanaba, Violeta R.	8542 Caong St. San Antonio Vill. Makati City
6. Siledio, Diosdada S.	134 Little Samar St. San Jose Navotas M.Mla.
7. Austero, Clemencia	228 Blk20 Dalig I Antipolo City
8. Ibana, Anita M.	14 Villa San Juan Sto. Tomas Pasig City
9. Samson, Maria Teresa	26 Daang Bakal St. Banaba San mateo Rizal
10. Seria, Eliza E.	212 MH Del Pilar St. Santulan Amlabon M.Mla

LUZON	
1. Casilan, Catalina H.	121 Sitio Alegria Dinalaoan Calasiao Pangasinan
2. Santos, Elizabeth B.	17th St. East Bayac-Bayac Olongapo City
3. Ferror, Gloria	34 Primicias Sta Barbara Pangasinan
4. Salazar, Rosalina D.	1-7 St. Joseph Angeles Citicenter Subd.Pandan Angeles City Pampanga
5. Simon, Miriam M.	2124 P-arap San Vicente Apalit Pampanga
6. Balolong, Lolita C.	Brgy Manincing Sta. Barbara Pangasinan
7. Corpuz, Tita O.	39 PNR Site 2400 Dagupan City
8. Astre, Edna C.	16 Primicias Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan
9. Cortez, Esperanza A.	Buko St. Sto Domingo Vill. Mexico Pampanga
10. Past, Olivia	023 Sunflower Subd. Porok 6 San Luis Village, Baguio City

VISAYAS	
1. Racoma, Alma	Mancao Vill. Carcan Cebu
2. Bawagan Jr., Hipolito	Canda Bong Alcantara Cebu
3. Cabillar, Carolina A.	5075Tunghaan Minglanilla Cebu
4. Gullan, Leo D.	c/o Hotel Mercedes #7 Pelaez st. Cebu City
5. Gallo, Angelo	Cameroli Ave. Brgy 35 Bacolod City
6. Untal, Melrose S.	Brgy. Don George Araneta Bago City Negros Occidental
7. Maguyon, Romulo E.	7 Lily st. Bata Subd. 6100 Bacolod City Negros Occidental
8. Hiponia, Helen	Brgy Bitoon Jaro, Iloilo City
9. Abenido Alice	0458 Brgy. Lahug Cebu City
10. Bawagan, Lucille	Lanao, Moalboal Cebu

MINDANAO	
1. Dormentes, Jocelyn D.	959 San Pedro Ext. Davao City
2. Remollero, Luzviminda A.	Purok 25 MA-A Peoples Vill Davao City
3. Acma, Merlyn B.	Zone 4 Pasil Kanswagan, Cagayan de Oro City
4. Lamantucan, Virginia K.	Mother Ignacia Village Carmen Cagayan de Oro
5. Oliver, Julieta	Agora Mambato Lapasan Cagayan De Oro City
6. Wagas Jr., Teodoro G.	Porok 30 Zona II Maria Cristina Iligan City
7. Patalinghug, Dennis P.	769 Datu Bago St. Bankerohan Davao City
8. Banquil, Genelot	Zone 6 Camiaan Cagayan De Oro City
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Getting curled and flattered

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I'VE BEEN struck with hair schizophrenia again and I'm writing this column from **Pin Antonio**'s Salon de Manila branch in Stamford Court in Salcedo Village.

I'm having my hair curled, in tight ringlets, reminiscent of **Keri Russell**'s hair in the WB series, "Felicity," or **Debra Messing**'s "Will and Grace" 'do.

What made me decide to go for it? Let me pin the blame on **Jun de Leon**'s influence. He showed me all the latest European fashion magazines and he told me that for Fall-Winter, the hair trend is really towards all forms and shapes of curls. Straight hair has ruled for nearly three years, and the wheel is turning towards waves and curls.

Jun wanted curls for my latest batch of Swatch Bijoux photos. Using a curling iron took forever. And after putting the silicon-based products to make the hair look glossy in the photos, my hair would start to lose the curl and it was time to crank up the heat of the iron again.

I felt that I was being mean, and not only to my scalp which would sometimes get accidentally scalded. I also pitied the hands and fingers of **Imelda**, who was tasked to keep my curls springy and alive. My solution was to have a permanent and live with the curls for the next four to six months.

Bendable chopstick rods are currently all over my head. The hair is curled on the vertical, not the usual horizontal. It's tedious work coiling the hair around the rods, but when it comes to being adventurous with my hair, I don't believe in entertaining fear. Anything goes, I've vowed, at least for the next nine more years.

The medicine they are using on me is Wella, and it smells okay. They are using a special formulation made especially for color-treated hair. Prior to curling the hair on the rods, they even sprayed a pre-perm lotion all over my hair to protect it from drying out.

The great thing about current hair treatments and procedures is that companies have truly invested a lot in research, technological breakthroughs, and development of specific formulations for specific needs. If you become a victim of dull, dry, lifeless, stringy, or weak hair, then you'll only have yourself to blame.

* * *

People were asking me if I felt offended by the bombardment of plugs for "Game KNB"'s latest competitor, GMA 7's "Ready Txt Go." In all sincerity—and this is coming from someone who's admittedly work-obsessed and competitive when it comes to her programs—I was flattered.

I've always enjoyed **Michael V.**'s humor, and he never struck me as mean-spirited.

Last weekend, I was even giggling when I saw the plug they produced where the would-be Kris was on the cell phone bugging Michael V, since the Kris in a negligee was losing sleep because of the impending head-on competition.

It was hilarious because people who are close to me know that one of my ways of dealing with stress is bugging people I work with or my closest friends (**Louie, Tatus, Deo, ZsaZsa,** and **Rina** please take a bow) with marathon phone conversations late into the night. There are times when I can talk for up to five hours straight, and my favorite line is always, "Don't hang up, ten minutes *na lang*, please."

'In the past nine months, "Game KNB" has been the consistent No. 1 game show in the Philippines. The acknowledgement given by GMA 7 that we are the show to beat is one of the best compliments my show has ever received. Thanks to Michael V. because he makes a pretty cute "Kris."

If there's one thing I've learned, the entertainment business is such a small community, and at some point I'm definite Michael V. and I will have the opportunity to collaborate.

The US version of "Who wants to be a Millionaire" has folded up after three years on the air. Nothing is permanent, but talent that's unique and dedicated does manage to outlive television programs. That's why there's no need to breed further animosity.

Definitely, there are enough TV sets for both our shows. My effort, though, will stay concentrated on making sure that the majority of those sets stay tuned to "Game KNB."

Red Horse Muziklaban 2002 is here

The hottest and most awaited band competition in the country is back. Red Horse Beer invites all aspiring young amateur bands to be part of the biggest and most exciting Muziklaban ever. If you think you've got what it takes to make it big in the local rock scene, rush to the nearest San Miguel Sales Office, Dickies Outlet, DWTM Magix 89.9, Killer Bee or NU 107 radio station and get an application form. Send the accomplished form with your demo tape to any San Miguel Sales Office or to any DWTM or NU 107 radio stations together with Red Horse Beer crowns (3 crowns for each member of your band) and other requirements.

Demo tapes, which should each contain 1 cover song, 1 Red Horse Beer original song with the theme "tunay na lakas", and 1 original song, will be screened by a distinguished panel of judges. Qualifying bands will be announced over DWTM Magic 89.9, Killer Bee and NU 107 stations nationwide.

At stake are over P100,000 in prizes and chance to cut an album with Alpha Records, one of the country's leading labels. This may be the break you've been waiting for kaya ilabas mo na ang iyong tunay na lakas sa tugtugan sa Red Horse Beer Muziklaban 2002.

For more information, call Wishcraft Events Team at (02) 635-6026, 0916-539-1613 or visit www.magic899.fm

'Vina Escapes' in Casino Filipino

LIVE Artist Productions presents Vina Mor in a special concert, "Vina Escapes," 9 toni at Casino Filipino in Parañaque.

Vina will be joined by guest artist Ga Eigenmann, with Mark Lopez as musical rector. She will perform a wide range of sc that will include "Pangako sa 'Yo," a medle OPM movie themes and the pop hit "Su man," by Five for Fighting.

There will also be numbers where Vina get to display her dancing talent.

Lending support to the show are Casino Filipino-Parañaque senior managing head Atty. Emily Padua, and Jessica Arambulo, assistant managing head, Casino Filipino Entertainment Department.

"Vina Escapes" is the first in a series of shows that Live Artist Productions is lining up for the month of July. It will be followed by a concert featuring Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez on July 19 at Casino Filipino at Mimosa in Clarkfield, Angeles, Pampanga.

Live Artist Productions closes out the month with a show featuring Freestyle at Ratsky's Tomas Morato on July 31.

For tickets and inquiries regarding "Vina Escapes" and other upcoming shows of Live Artist Production, call 920-2643 or (0918) 923-9825.

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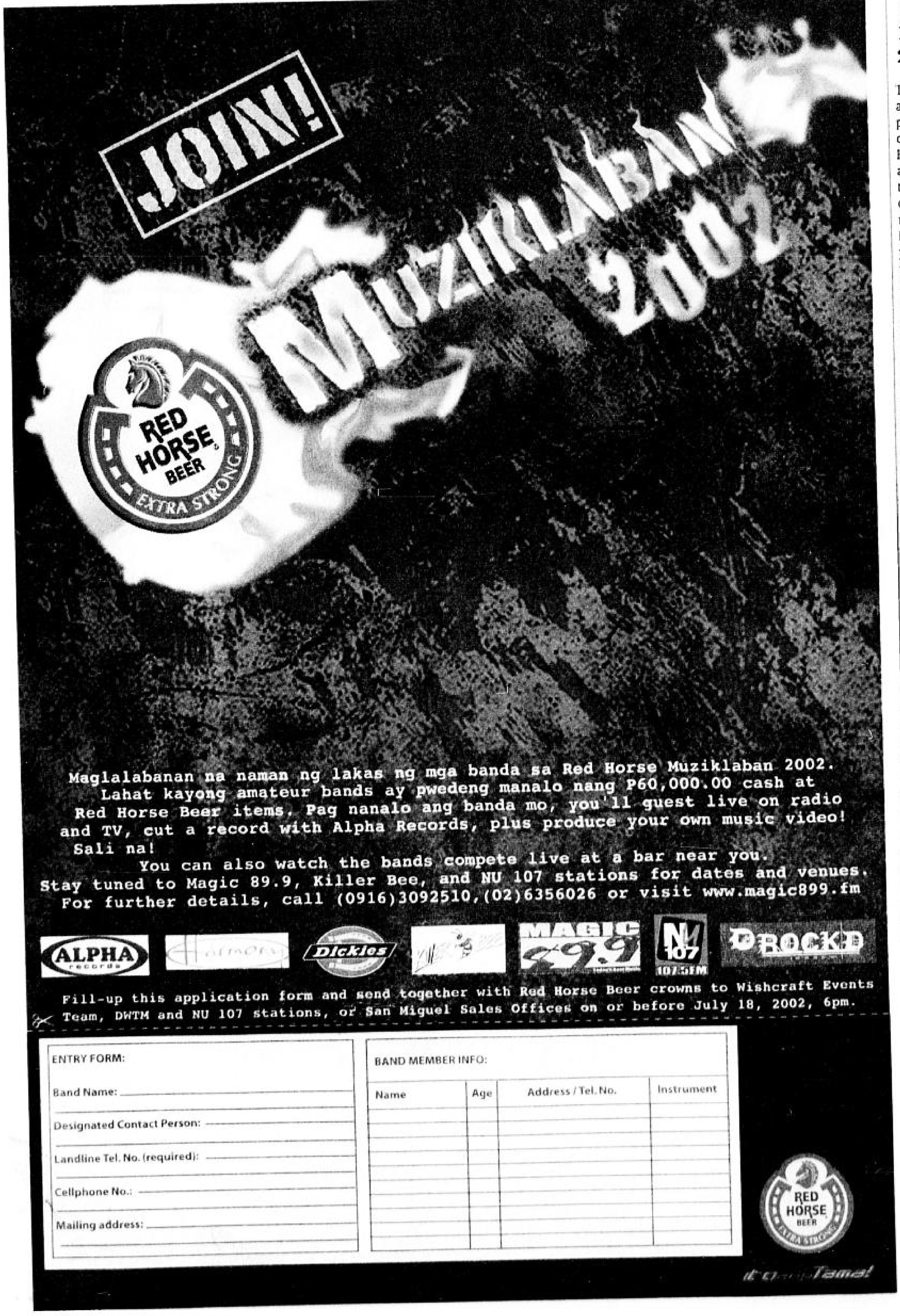


Maglalabanan na naman ng lakas ng mga banda sa Red Horse Muziklaban 2002. Lahat kayong amateur bands ay pwedeng manalo nang P60,000.00 cash at Red Horse Beer items. Pag nanalo ang banda mo, you'll guest live on radio and TV, cut a record with Alpha Records, plus produce your own music video! Sali na!

You can also watch the bands compete live at a bar near you. Stay tuned to Magic 89.9, Killer Bee, and NU 107 stations for dates and venues. For further details, call (0916)3092510,(02)6356026 or visit www.magic899.fm

Fill-up this application form and send together with Red Horse Beer crowns to Wishcraft Events Team, DWTM and NU 107 stations, or San Miguel Sales Offices on or before July 18, 2002, 6pm.

ENTRY FORM:

Band Name:

Designated Contact Person:

Landline Tel. No. (required):

Cellphone No.:

Mailing address:

BAND MEMBER INFO:

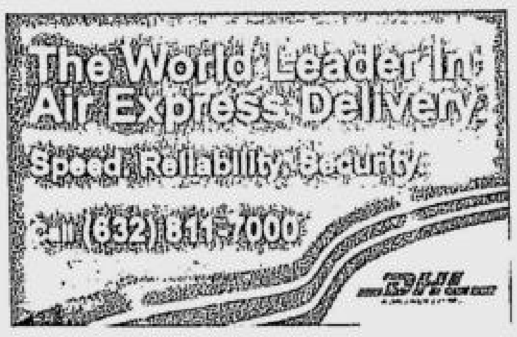
Name	Age	Address / Tel. No.	Instrument

FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◆ *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**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SGS sues gov't over ₱6B in unpaid claims

By Clarissa S. Batino

SWISS imports inspector Societe Generale de Surveillance or SGS has sued the Philippine government before a Washington arbitration court for its failure to pay P6.05 billion in obligations after terminating the firm's 12-year contract in March 2000.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday confirmed that the Swiss inspector indeed filed a case against the government before the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes but that he was contesting the venue of the arbitration.

"I think the contract with SGS recognizes the jurisdiction of a Philippine court to settle this issue. We want to resolve this case expeditiously," the finance chief said.

Camacho explained that before the government could pay the Swiss inspector, Congress had to appropriate the amount in the budget.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin yesterday said the payment for SGS had not been included in the 2003 budget being prepared by the government.

What could complicate matters is the refusal of legislators to approve any budget appropriation for SGS, alleging that the amount being claimed by imports inspector as payment for services rendered was overpriced.

SGS, the country's former preshipment inspector, had a 12-year, P30-billion contract with the Philippine government that expired in December 1999. Its contract was extended to March 2000.

"Our policy is to honor our contracts but Congress has to appropriate the budget before we can pay them," Camacho said.

In January, a trade and investment mission from Switzerland had canceled its trip to Manila to protest the government's unclear position on how SGS would be paid.

Sen. Robert Barbers pointed out in February that when the government first reviewed its obligations to the Swiss imports inspector, the payables stood at only P1.563 billion.

Barbers said he was confused why during a second review made when Camacho was already finance secretary, the payables to SGS had increased to P6.05 billion.

"The government must hold in abeyance any payment to SGS because of the discrepancy in the recommended amount," the senator said.

Sergio Ortiz-Luis, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the government must honor its contract with SGS unless it was proven illegal.

"I think the government cannot turn around and not honor its obligations after the services were rendered. I think the SGS is willing to renegotiate with the government," the PCCI president said.

The Macapagal administration earlier asked SGS to allow the government to settle its P6.05 billion obligations in installment.

The Swiss imports checker had billed the Philippine government an equivalent of P6.48 billion (206,150,238.14 Swiss francs at an exchange rate of P31.437 to a franc) for services rendered from September 1998 to March 2000.

After reviewing the billing, a task force formed to validate the claims of SGS had recommended that the government only pay the Swiss inspector P6.05 billion.

The task force had recommended that P117.5 million be deducted from the SGS bill and that P314 million in charges be reviewed further.

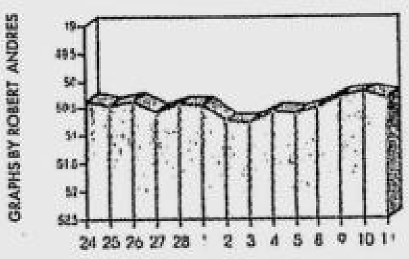
The Swiss inspector, according to the finance department, is willing to forego the P314 million provided that an agreement be forged on the terms of payment for the rest of the obligations.

SGS/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



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¥ 117.40 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 11, 2002

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per ounce Hong Kong, July 11, 2002

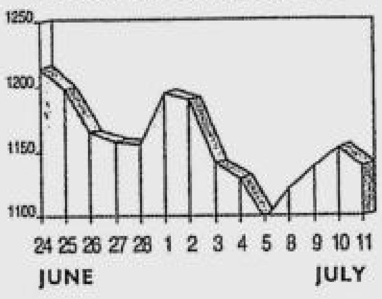
STOCK MARKET

Stocks end down 1.21%

STOCKS fell 1.21 percent yesterday, as steep Wall Street losses overnight triggered worries that slower economic growth in the United States could harm Philippine exports.

The country's economy is closely linked to the United States, its largest trading partner.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

"The local market was caught in the selling wave in New York," said A&A Securities research head Astro del Castillo.

"Basically, the US market is suffering due to irregularities in accounting procedures and slower economic growth. Eventually, that could translate to snail's pace growth for us."

On Wednesday, the Dow Jones industrial average slumped 3.11 percent, or 282.59 points, to 8,813.50 on inflamed corporate accounting worries.

The Philippines' main stock index, tracking the Dow, dropped 13.98 points to close lower at 1,139.14 points, on volume of P507.61 million.

Losers led by telecom giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) beat gainers 38 to 15 and there were 32 stocks unchanged.

"Since the technical rally has been derailed with very little local stories to trade on, I think investors would be watching out for development abroad, in particular the US market. It's going to be a major factor," said AB Capital stock analyst Jose Vistan.

Vistan pegged the market's psychological support level at 1,120 and resistance at 1,170.

Analysts said another factor that contributed to the market's retreat was the negative sentiment on PLDT, currently caught in a corporate tussle.

"PLDT has been a drag ever since news of the row between the management and its parent firm First Pacific broke out," Del Castillo said.

Index heavyweight PLDT, which has a market capitalization of $1.096 billion, closed 5.34 percent lower at P310. *Reuters*

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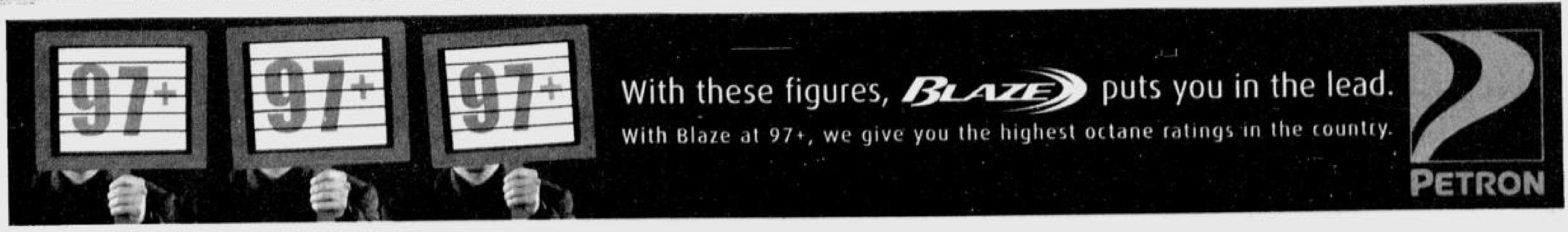

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Asia Brewery, US firm end deal to brew, sell Budweiser in RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TAIPAN Lucio Tan's Asia Brewery Inc. and Anheuser Busch, the world's largest beer maker, have ended their 5-year alliance to brew and market Budweiser beer in the Philippines on a bitter note after the country's second largest brewer declined the King of Beers' demand for higher royalties.

In an interview, Asia Brewery CEO James L. Yu said Asia Brewery and Anheuser Busch had already agreed on the terms of a fresh deal except for the American's demand to increase royalties by one percent annually.

Asia Brewery and Anheuser Busch, which started negotiations in October last year, have agreed to renew the deal for five years, on the sales target, spending for advertising and promotion, and improving product quality. Yu said Asia Brewery was willing to increase the royalty payments if sales increased by a pre-agreed volume, such as one million cases, in a year.

Yu said Asia Brewery rejected the Americans' demand because higher royalties would mean that they would be getting a bigger piece of revenues in the Philippines whether sales were good or bad. Yu lamented that Asia Brewery had shouldered all the start-up and marketing costs since Budweiser was introduced here in 1996 while Anheuser Busch ran the show.

Yu said Anheuser Busch had initially agreed to accept Asia Brewery's compromise offer in December last year but it suddenly changed its mind in February when the Americans gave their Filipino-Chinese partners a take-it-or-leave-it agreement specifying a one-percent increase in royalty payments.

"We had no choice but to terminate our licensing and brewing agreement (Asia Brewery stopped selling Budweiser last April 30) because of the shabby treatment we are getting from Anheuser Busch. We wanted to continue selling Budweiser here but we knew we reached the end of the road when our partners clearly don't want us anymore," Yu said.

In its final demand letter to Asia Brewery, Yu said Anheuser Busch projected a dismal outlook for the Philippine beer industry and its strategy to focus on the Chinese mainland, which is the second-largest beer market in the world.

Yu also dismissed speculation that Budweiser was disappointed with Asia Brewery's failure to give Budweiser at least 2 percent of the Philippine beer market—the fifth-largest in Asia and the biggest in Southeast Asi—at the end of the five-year agreement.

"We told them as early as 1999 (or three years into the contract) that there was no way we could reach our target of 2-percent market share and they agreed with us. But we continued to believe on the potential of Budweiser in the country which is why both of us agreed to sit down and discuss a renewal," said Yu who noted that Budweiser's launch in the Philippines was marred by the 1997 financial crisis and the Philippines' sluggish economic growth. "The local beer market, which is a good economic barometer, is down by 10 percent to 15 percent since 1996."

Anheuser Busch itself took note of Asia Brewery's success in ensuring widespread distribution of Budweiser in Metro Manila, the most competitive of the Philippine beer markets, and large provincial cities on the main Island regions of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. "With excellent penetration of bars, restaurants and clubs, Budweiser sales in 1999 increased 24 percent versus 1998, continuing Budweiser's strong growth trend as the largest-selling premium beer brand in the Philippines," Anheuser Busch said on its website.

"This is no doubt a setback for us. But we have survived 20 years of intense competition and we look forward to continue with our struggle with no let up," Yu said.

US court acts on PLDT request

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE UNITED States District Court of the Southern District of New York on Wednesday ordered First Pacific Co. and its ally firms to show cause as to why an injunction should not be issued requiring them to disclose an agreement on a $925-million deal with the Gokongwei group for the takeover of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Also named in the order were Holland Pacific, Intalink, Larouge, Metro Pacific Holdings, Metro Pacific Investments, Metro Pacific Resources and Metro Pacific Assets Holdings.

In a two-page ruling dated July 10, US District Judge Louis Stanton required First Pacific to comply with the order on July 22 "or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard."

The order referred to "an amended Schedule 13D," which allowed First Pacific not to include a copy of the agreement with the Gokongwei group in its disclosure.

In a statement, PLDT said it has petitioned the US District Court to order parent-firm First Pacific to file the MOA with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

"We are requesting the court to immediately require First Pacific to submit a copy of the MOA in compliance with the US Securities Act of 1934," PLDT vice president Menardo Jimenez Jr. said in a statement.

He said PLDT wanted a speedy resolution of the issue to protect the interest of all shareholders who are entitled to full disclosure of the agreement that seeks to transfer control of PLDT to the Gokongwei group.

He said the PLDT petition stated that First Pacific failed to comply with US federal securities law when it filed an document allowing the exclusion of a the MOA copy.

TAX PAYMENTS ONLINE

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza, Revenue Commissioner Rene G. Bañez and Bank of the Philippine Islands senior vice president Aurelio R. Montinola III sign the memorandum of agreement that makes BPI an authorized agent bank for BIR's Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS). The eFPS program of the BIR is the electronic processing and transmission of tax return information including attachments and taxes due the government made over the Internet through the BIR's website. Under the BIR's Revenue Memorandum Order No. 5-2002, it will be mandatory for large taxpayers and non-large taxpayers to file certain tax types electronically.

Yap named chair of CEU

By Doris C. Dumlao

BUSINESSMAN Emilio Yap was elected chair of Centro Escolar University after acquiring a 27-percent stake in Centro Escolar University, one of the largest and most profitable universities in the Philippines.

A CEU disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday said Yap, whose group was entitled to three of the nine board seats, also appointed two noted academicians—former University of the Philippines chancellor Emil Javier and former Education Secretary Andrew Gonzales—to the board.

The disclosure confirmed an earlier INQUIRER report that Yap had acquired 94 million shares of CEU for about P761 million. The sale, which was consummated through a block sale at the PSE last week, made Yap a strategic partner of the Echauz family, which used to control 55 percent of the university.

With the transaction, the remaining stake held by the Echauz family was reduced to 27 percent or equal to the stake acquired by Yap, who controls a wide array of businesses including the Manila Hotel, Euro-Med Laboratories Philippines Inc., broadsheet Manila Bulletin and Philtrust Bank.

Former CEU chair Lourdes Echauz announced she had stepped down as chair and director in favor of Yap. Echauz, however, was accorded by the board the lifetime title of chair emeritus "entitling her to attend and observe board meetings as well as other university functions carrying that title."

Josephine Lichauco was elected as board member to replace Echauz.

Yap's acquisition of a 27-percent stake in CEU was made through local company USAutoco. The selling parties were the Echauz family's CEU Holdings (about 21) percent and Standard Insurance Co. Inc. (6 percent).

The sources said CEU Holding reduced its stake in order to focus on other businesses. On the other hand, they said leading car insurer Standard Insurance, which was going public late this year or early next year, would use its share of the proceeds to pare down debts.

CEU, for its part, is expected to report a 9-percent rise in net income to P240 million for its fiscal year ending March 2002.

The university earlier announced plans to raise funds—either through a public offering or a private placement—in order to embark into the "New School" or online education as well as to expand its business school.

The university has 372.4 million outstanding shares. The transaction made the Yap and Echauz families in control of 55 percent while another 24 percent is held by the Tionco family and the remaining 18 percent, by the public.

Established in 1907 by Doña Librada Avelino and Carmen de Luna, the university has about 28,000 students. It had a book value of P2 billion and total assets of P2.39 billion as of end-2000.

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DISCLOSURES

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. bought 69,000 of its own shares at P31.50 per share and another 13,000 shares at P32 per share.

* * *

BANK of the Philippines Islands declared cash dividends of P0.80 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of July 25 and shall be payable on Aug. 9.

* * *

SALCON Power Corp. bought 3.24 million of its own shares at an average price of P1.80 per share.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Marine bought 300,000 of its own shares at P0.35 per share and another 50,000 shares at P0.37 per share. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, July 11, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.5	51,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46.5	45.5	46	281,700
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	1,160
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29.5	29.5	28.5	28.5	176,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34.5	34.5	33.5	34	285,800
Philippine National Bank	31	31	31	31	7,300
Security Bank Corp.	14.25	14.5	14.25	14.5	40,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	19	19.5	19	19.5	9,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund, Inc	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	30,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	30,000
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.64	0.65	0.63	0.63	440,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	515	525	515	525	478,210
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	300,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.03	4,000,000
Piltel	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	150,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	322.5	322.5	310	310	196,010
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	17,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	20	20	19.75	20	34,200
Manila Electric Co. B	29	29	28.5	29	227,600
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.74	2,406,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	14,698,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	350,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	128,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.4	2.4	101,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.34	0.39	0.34	0.39	680,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	860,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	62,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.75	13	12.75	13	30,000
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	31	31	31	31	6,600
RFM Corp.	1	1.02	0.98	0.99	1,039,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47.5	47.5	47	47.5	29,100
San Miguel Corp. B	54	54	54	54	76,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	3,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.4	635,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.26	2.3	2.26	2.3	4,620,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	150,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	500,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.15	290,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,000,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	18	18	16	16	965,200
Ionics, Inc.	6	6	6	6	5,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	100,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	120,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,500,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.69	0.7	0.68	0.7	1,550,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	860,000
Music Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.17	0.17	350,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	120,520,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	30	30	30	30	1,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	50,000
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	40,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8.3	8.3	7.9	7.9	120,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,420,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	30,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	24.25	24.25	24	24.25	426,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	600	620	600	620	920
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.6	4,625,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2.02	2	2.02	217,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	30,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.16	0.17	0.12	0.16	4,960,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	2,650,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	231,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	500,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	700,000
SM Development Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	3,850,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.185	360,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	300,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	9,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0032	0.0028	0.0032	2,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	100,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.33	0.38	0.33	0.38	210,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc .	915,460	30,266,175.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	180,831,140	427,758,825.00
PRO	17,813,000	50,380,760.00
Mining	860,000	186,550.00
OIL	12,610,000	126,700.00
GRAND TOTALS :	213,029,600	508,719,010.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	449 27	DOWN 7.46
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,576.44	DOWN 21.21
PRO	621.30	UP 3.73
Mining	1,168.52	DOWN 3.35
OIL	1.27	UP 0.10
All Shares Index	682.41	DOWN 3.14
Composite	1,139.14	DOWN 13.98

NO. OF ADVANCES: 15; NO. OF DECLINES: 38; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 32; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 85; NO. OF TRADES: 1,644

CURRENCIES

July 11, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.011122	1.000000	50.2250
Japan	Yen	0.008593	0.008498	0.4268
United Kingdom	Pound	1.564712	1.547500	77.7232
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.129633	0.128207	6.4392
Switzerland	Franc	0.680158	0.672676	33.7852
Canada	Dollar	0.665168	0.657851	33.0406
Singapore	Dollar	0.577619	0.571265	28.6918
Australia	Dollar	0.573198	0.566893	28.4722
Bahrain	Dinar	2.682165	2.652661	133.2299
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.269626	0.266660	13.3930
Brunei	Dollar	0.574502	0.568182	28.5369
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000112	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024560	0.024290	1.2200
UAE	Dirham	0.275315	0.272287	13.6756
Korea	Won	0.000869	0.000859	0.0431
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.989000	49.6725
Brazil	Real	0.353663	0.349773	17.5673
Denmark	Kroner	0.134628	0.133147	6.6873
India	Rupee	0.020753	0.020525	1.0309
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.266106	0.263179	13.2182
Mexico	New Peso	0.102892	0.101760	5.1109
New Zealand	Dollar	0.495842	0.490388	24.6297
Norway	Kroner	0.137211	0.135702	6.8156
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016880	0.016694	0.8385
South Africa	Rand	0.101417	0.100301	5.0376
Sweden	Kroner	0.107480	0.106298	5.3388
Syria	Pound	0.019671	0.019455	0.9771
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030566	0.030230	1.5183
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000790	0.000781	0.0392

Tax avoidance 101

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE CONTROVERSIAL Piatco consortium that is building the new Naia Terminal 3 and their lawyers have some serious explanations to do before the tax authorities.

Commissioner Rene Bañez said that the Bureau of Internal Revenue had no record that the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc., a joint venture of Germans and local Chinoys, filed its expanded withholding tax returns in 1997 and 1998.

For 1999, Piatco only filed the EWT returns for April, May, and June, but that said returns "(did) not contain the list of payees," Bañez said.

The Bañez report, dated March 25, 2002, was submitted after Malacañang asked the BIR to look into the tax compliance of the various parties involved in the construction of the new international airport terminal.

For the year 2000, Piatco was found to have remitted more than P21 million in expanded and over P124 million in compensation withholding taxes.

"As payments to general professional partnerships, like law firms, are not subject to the expanded withholding tax, the names of Sebastian Liganor Galetiera Law Offices and Quasha Ancheta Pena & Nolasco Law Offices did not appear in the alpha list," Bañez said.

Ancheta refers to Ruben Ancheta, a former BIR commissioner himself.

The BIR noted that the Sebastian Liganor Galetiera law firm filed gross revenues of more than P18 million in 1997, over P15 million in 1998, over P19 million in 1999, and over P33 million in 2000.

One Piatco consultant, Datacenta Ltd., did not file any tax return as it is not even a registered taxpayer, Bañez noted.

Adolf's blitzkrieg

THE MAKATI Business Club, which questioned the Supreme Court decision awarding the Manila Hotel to Don Emilio Yap despite a Malaysian group winning the bid, has now rallied behind the appointment to the Supreme Court of none other than the president of the Manila Hotel itself, Yap lawyer Adolf Azcuna.

If Azcuna gets the coveted appointment, the former ConCom delegate will have an unbroken string of success in shepherding the Bulletin sequestration row.

It was under Adolf Azcuna's watch as presidential legal counsel that the PCGG, under Malacañang directive, reversed itself and sold a block of sequestered shares that enabled Yap to gain control of the Bulletin.

"There is serious legal implication of the sale *pendente lite* of the Bulletin shares without the approval of the Sandiganbayan," said a PCGG analysis of the Bulletin sale. "Doctrinal rule is that the sale of sequestered assets without the Sandiganbayan approval is a null and void sale."

After his Malacañang stint, Azcuna went to work for the Bulletin, defending before the Supreme Court the very effects of his desequestration decision.

Now that the compromise agreement on the Bulletin would be calendared in the Supreme Court, guess who could possibly be inside the chamber to bless the deal?

Bud croaks out

BUDWEISER, better known locally for its cheeky crocodile and frog TV adverts rather than roaring sales, is quietly fading from the Philippine shores following the non-renewal of the packaging, marketing, sales, and distribution agreement with Asia Brewery.

Despite its competitive pricing, Bud failed to become the Pinoy drinking buddy. To be fair, even Asia Brewery's previous foreign brands, Carlsberg and Labatt, also failed to excite the local taste buds despite their worldwide popularity.

According to a spokesperson of the competing San Miguel Corp., the combined sales of foreign beers, including San Miguel's Miller, account for just about one percent of the local market.

With Bud gone, Asia Brewery will be left with Lone Star Beer as its sole foreign beer brand.

According to the grapevine, Asia Brewery will also revive Manila Beer, whose sales have now been largely confined to the Visayas, and position it head-on against market leader San Miguel Pale Pilsen.

Misfortunes

FIRST, we misspelled the name. Then we erred on the gender. Despite being named "Fortune" Balasbas, like Mare socialite Fortune Ledesma, the lawyer of Philtrust bank is actually a he.

According to Estrada defender Rene A.V. Saguisag, Balasbas, whose first name is "Fortunato," had worked under him when Saguisag was still a senator.

Like Saguisag, Balasbas is a "decent, talented and honorable" lawyer who just happens to defend crooks and deadbeat billionaires for a living.

Heard through the grapevine

IT WAS yesterday, not Wednesday as earlier reported here, that the independent directors of First Pacific Co. met in Hong Kong to decide on the legal moves that they would undertake against their recalcitrant executive chair, Manuel V. Pangilinan.

Apparently, a series of *golpes* are in store for MVP, including, but not limited to, lawsuits in Hong Kong, New York and the Bahamas.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.

Manila seeking WTO advice on fruit row with Australia

THE PHILIPPINES is seeking legal advice from the World Trade Organization (WTO) on whether to file a formal complaint against Australia, after it banned the entry of its pineapples, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said yesterday.

Final findings by food trade safety group Biosecurity Australia on Philippine pineapples have banned their entry unless they are decrowned and fumigated.

But the group has given only an initial report on Philippine bananas, asking Manila for its comment, Roxas said.

"With the pineapples, the decision of whether we will make this a WTO matter or not is currently being studied and we are consulting with the WTO law center which is also helping us determine the technicality of this," Roxas told reporters at the sidelines of an economic conference.

"What we are doing is we are making sure that our arguments and our scientific findings have good basis before we proceed."

Exports of fresh fruits, including pineapples and bananas, could ease the Philippine budget deficit and stimulate the economy. The value of potential exports of bananas alone to Australia is estimated at $300 million a year.

"We are very deeply disappointed that this is their findings on our pineapples because even our experts are saying that these germs or other matters they are complaining about do not merit the steps they are recommending," Roxas said.

"The use of chemicals and the decrowning would make the pineapples unsaleable. So they are sort of saying, okay, you can export those produce here but the conditions would render the products unsaleable.

"We are studying what really are the technical provisions of their findings . . . so that we can make a rebuttal. And we are also studying the steps, both at the bilateral level, with our joint economic cooperation with Australia, and at the multilateral level at the WTO, if we can resolve this, which in our view, is an unfair treatment of our produce," Roxas said.

Reuters

SGS sues . . .

From page B1

The finance department had included as part of the unprogrammed funds this year a budget of P3 billion to pay the Swiss inspector. But the government had stressed that the SGS would only be paid if there would be funds to support the P3-billion appropriation.

Business groups led by the PCCI had been asking the government to hire anew a pre-shipment inspector to aid importers in determining the proper valuation in taxing their imports.

Currently, the taxes and duties imposed on an imported product depend on the transaction value evaluated by the Customs. Most of the time, the importer and the Customs bureau argue over the appropriate valuation and without a third-party, importers feel that the valuation is mostly unfair.

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Smart Anime Mania to give away Anime collectibles

CALLING all *anime* collectors and fans. Smart is giving you a chance to win an insane amount of *anime*-related prizes through Smart Anime Mania. Relive some of those classic *anime* memories as well as experience the new breed of *anime* today by registering and joining in the fun that only Smart Anime Mania can give. From June 2 to July 31, registered members of Smart Anime Mania on Smart Gold GSM and Smart Buddy Pre-paid cellphones can enjoy both downloading your favorite *anime* theme songs as ringtones or highlight your favorite characters as picture messages and operator logos, as well as winning amazing *anime* collectibles.

By a few simple presses on your Smart cellphone, you can download picture messages, operator logos of your most beloved *anime* of the past and present. Show old friends that you still remember the love story between Richard and Erica from "Daimos" by playing the theme song as your ringtone. Display your loyalty to Eugene and Co. from "Ghost Fighter" by showing off custom made picture messages and screen savers. Let everyone see how much you know about the Voltes Team's struggle against the Boazanian Empire by playing text trivia games. Enjoy downloading ringtones, logos and picture messages of those popular series as well as newer favorites like "Oh! My Goddess!", "Hunter X Hunter", "Bubblegum Crisis", "Flame of Recca", "Trigun", and "Fushigi Yugi" through Smart.

To join, Smart subscribers must register via text. To register, key in Join Anime then send to 235. Afterwards, they will be prompted to follow the instructions: Name <complete name>; Birth <mmddyy>; Add <address>.

All registered subscribers can earn raffle points in three easy ways. Invite a friend for 1 raffle point. Each time a member sends an invitation for a friend to join Anime Mania, he/she is assigned one computer generated and recorded point valid for the monthly raffle draw and grand raffle draw. To send an invitation, simply type "Invite <mobile number>" and send to 235. Another way to join is to play the game, where every move earns 1 raffle point. Every move made on any *anime* game during the promo period credits the registered subscriber one point. To play, simply type "Play" and send to 235. The last way to join is to Download Ringtone, Logo or Picture Message for 3 points each. Every ringtone, logo or picture message downloaded earns the registered subscriber 3 raffle points. To download ringtones, logos or picture messages, key in list to get all available *anime* downloadables.

The monthly raffle draw date on Aug. 5 will feature 20 winners of collectible Voltes V, Daimos and Ghost Fighter toys. And for the grand raffle draw also to be held on Aug. 5, four winners will be chosen to receive the Voltes V, Daimos and Ghost Fighter toys, one year subscriptions to Questor, the *anime* magazine, Trigun collectibles, and 20-volume VCD sets of Voltes V episodes. All of these and more made possible by the amazing services from Smart's Anime Mania.

So join the Smart Anime Mania now and proudly tell the world that it's great to love *anime*, and it's great to be Smart.

AGUILUZ FINISHES HARVARD PROGRAM

Dr. Amable Aguiluz V, first president of AMA Computer University, earned himself another acclaimed laurel as he recently finished a three-year Owner/President Management Program (OPM) at the prestigious Harvard Business School in Boston. Massachusetts. Since 1972, over 2,800 participants have attended the OPM program, but only 8 percent were from Asia. Aguiluz V is the first and only Filipino to graduate from the executive program. Aguiluz V had sworn in as the first president of AMA Computer University Feb. 5 this year. He holds the distinction of being the 'Father pf Computer Education in the Philippines'. Aguiluz (3rd from right) is flanked by (from left) Drs. Cynthia Montgomery, John Deighton, Bruce Scott, Dwight Crane and Howard Stevenson—members of the faculty of the Harvard Business School.

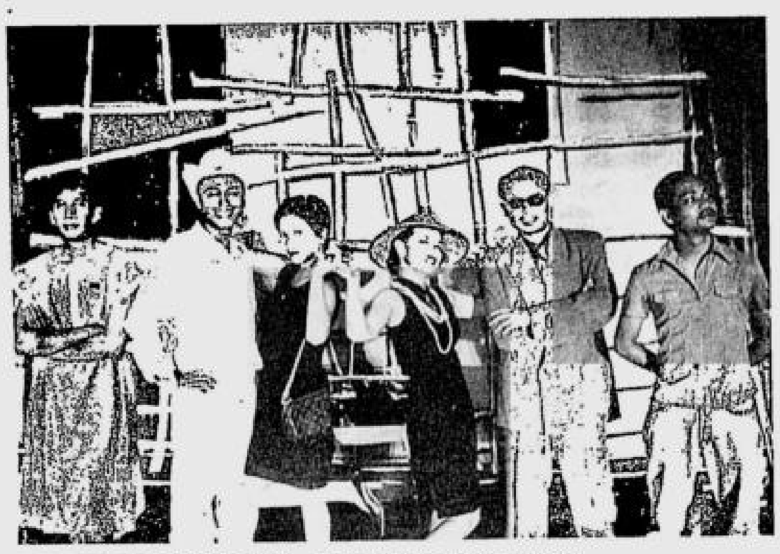
Search for Mother Teresa 2002 is on

THE MANILA Jaycees Inc. and AY Foundation are now accepting nominations for the 2002 Mother Teresa Award. Now on its 19th year, Mother Teresa Award seeks to recognize individuals who have devoted at least 25 years of selfless service to the "poorest of the poor" Filipinos, possessing impeccable integrity and known for simplicity lifestyle, following the example of the late Mother Teresa of the missionaries of charity.

The awardee will receive P1,000,000, of which half will go to a charitable institution of his/her choice.

Nominations may be submitted by any individual, institution, association or organization through official nomination forms, which may be obtained from RCBC branches nationwide, the AY Foundation office, Jaycee chapters, and the Manila Jaycees office.

For inquiries, call 525-2631 / 525-6814 / 525-6792 / 894-900 local 2297 to 2299.



COMEDY-MUSICAL AT INTRAMUROS

The Intramuros Evenings Performing Arts Series presents 'Isang Buhay sa Tambakan', a biting comedy of manners written by National Artist for Theater/Literature Rolando S. Tinio, on July 12, 6:30 p.m. at the Teatrillo of Plaza San Luis (opposite San Agustin Church), corner General Luna and Real Streets, Intramuros. Produced by Dulaang Talyer under the direction of Rolando Inocencio, it stars Mailes Kanapi, Kristine Balmes, Bong Antonio, McCoy Tarnate, Nazer Salcedo and Julius Mocorro. Intramuros Evenings is a public service presentation of the Department of Tourism. For inquiries, call 527-3138 or 527-2961. Shown is the cast.

LOAN PACKAGE FROM SB CORP.

Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp. and the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc (Affi) signed on the SME-Force loan package offered by SB Corp. to prospective franchisees. This will be presented by Affi and SB Corp. during the First Filipino Franchise Show to be held at the Megatrade Hall in SM Megamall from July 19 to 21. The franchise exhibit will feature the country's fastest growing homegrown franchise enterprises. Shown are (from left) Rommel Juan of Binalot, Chit Juan, Affi president and Figaro CEO, Benel Lagua, SB Corp president, Mel Alonzo, SB Corp. chair, Tiks Laurel, Affi chair, and Butz Bartolome of GMB Franchise Developers.

BITS Clips

San Beda Law Alumni golden year

THE SAN Beda Law Alumni Association, in cooperation with the San Beda College of Law, will be holding its Golden Anniversary celebration on Friday, July 19, 6 p.m. at the NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City. The grand celebration, which has for its theme "Living a Tradition of Excellence and moral ideals for God, Country and San Beda", will have Tan Sri Mohamed Dzaiddin Hj. Abdullah, Chief Justice of Malaysia and president of the Asean Law Association is guest of honor and speaker. The San Beda Law Golf Club, under the auspices of the San Beda Law Alumni Association, is hosting the San Beda Law Golden Golf Classic on July 15, 8 a.m. at the Forest Hill Golf and Country Club. For ticket reservation, call the San Beda Law Alumni Secretariat Office at 735-5995, 735-6011 local 2740, 0919-3303321, and ask for Wilma or Brady.

Homeplus half price furniture

HOMEPLUS, the furniture division of Abenson Appliances, is having its midyear sale until July 14 with over 100 furniture items on sale. Homeplus' "Half Year Half Price" sale includes stylish and inexpensive bedroom furniture for newlyweds or for students. Homeplus offers lots of computer tables, chairs, and study tables on 50 percent off. Also available for sale are selected sala and dining room sets, and entertainment racks for audio-video systems. Visit the showcase at any 22 Homeplus branches in all Abenson branches in Metro Manila and Luzon.

Special assembly in Cavite

OVER 2,000 delegates in Cavite will attend the one-day Special Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses to be held at the Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Barangay Mambog, Bacoor, Cavite on July 14. According to Benjamin Torres, Cavite Circuit #3 overseer, the theme of the program is "Subject Yourselves to God—Oppose the Devil (Jas. 4:7)". The entirety of the program provides the delegates with bible knowledge to become acceptable to God and how to oppose the Devil. Timely bible instructions, stage presentations, and encouraging personal experiences are also to be highlighted. The main highlight will be a Public Discourse at 2:55 p.m entitled "Benefiting From Godly Subjection" delivered by Felix Fajardo, a traveling representative of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, Philippine branch.

Immunology expert trains

MULTI-AWARDED immunologist Dr. Jau-Fei Chen will hold a distributor's training at the Mandarin Hotel in Makati today, July 12. Registration starts exactly at 12 noon. Learn more about Nutritional Immunology and how to succeed in the multi-level marketing business. For more information, call 811-0837.

TRIBUTE TO THE SCOUTMASTERS

BSP, PLI TRIBUTE TO THE SCOUT MASTERS

The Boy Scouts of the Philippines and Pascual Laboratories Inc., makers of Betadine wound solution, recently held the 46th annual National Council Meeting at Dusit Hotel. The major event of the program was the awarding of the 10 Outstanding Scout Masters in the Country. Shown (from left) are BSP national president Jejomar Binay, PLI president Manuel Salazar, and Tribute to the Scout Master 2002 chair J. Miguel C. de Jesus.

GLOBAL FORUM ON MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

Former Agrarian Reform Secretary Philip Ella Juico, dean of the De La Salle University Graduate School of Business (right), delivers a paper in one of the sessions during the Global Forum on Management Education 2002 at the Shangri-La Hotel Bangkok, Thailand. Other presenters in the session are Prisit Leeahtam (center), president and CEO of TT&T (Thailand Telephone and Telegraph) Public Company Ltd and Dr. Ronny Muntoro, director of the Master of Management program of the University of Indonesia. The forum, held every five years, brought together close to 800 management educators and CEOs from 78 countries.

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AULDEY RACING COMPETITION

The first Auldey Race-Tin Racing Competition was recently held at the Ever Gotesco Commonwealth Atrium. Over a hundred competitors as young as 7 to 40 years old joined and got their engines going in the kids and adult categories. Kids' division champ Mickey de Dios and adult division champ Ronnie Garcia went home with Auldey Gift Packs, trophies, and thousands in cash prizes awarded by Jocelyn Zheng of Zheng Trading, exclusive distributor of Auldey Race-Tins cars in the Philippines. The event was hosted by the great duo Golangco, Jasper Lao and Ed Saenz of Maverick Advertising. Eduardo Tan, owner of Savory Restaurant-Commonwealth awarded 2nd placers Arjay Guimbangunan and CJ Chavez. Dolly Eloriaga, general manager of Ever Department Store, awarded 3rd placers Marc Brian Quitzon and Carmine Samson. The event was sponsored by Ever Department Store, Ever-Gotesco Commonwealth Mall, Samsung Batteries, Savory Restaurant, Country Waffles, Bank of the Philippine Islands, The First Nationwide Assurance Corp., and Homeworks.

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The only authentic PMAP

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

IN his immortal work, "Romeo and Juliet," William Shakespeare asked the crucial question: What's in a name? And he hastily followed it up with a declarative: "That which we call a rose, by any name, smells as sweet." A name, however, to more than a thousand professionals in the field of human resource management, has become a very important issue. Other groups have appropriated the name, apparently, in vain.

The PMAP that we, HR professionals, recognize as genuine, to the exclusion of others, is what is legally known as Personnel Management Association of the Philippines. It has been duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In the eyes of the law, and in the minds of PMAPers, we are the only PMAP. And to us, a name, our name is, with all due respect to Shakespeare, a very important thing.

There is a supposedly ragtag group calling themselves "PMAP," otherwise known as People's Movement Against Poverty. And because their supposed adherents are more politically aggressive, more visible in concerted actions partisan to the former president, this "PMAP" appears to have established a wider share in the consciousness of the masses. If this were a marketing war in the minds of the people, that "PMAP" has apparently captured a major market share in the psyche of Filipinos. And we resent that. For we believe, it is not even registered in the same manner that we were decades ago.

There is another "PMAP," the so-called Professional Models Association of the Philippines. We have no knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief on the question of whether or not this second "PMAP" is registered with the SEC. But this is a group composed of fashion models which we, of course, do not look down or deride. But again, we insist that as early as the 1950s, we already own the name PMAP. And nobody else should take it from us.

Allowing others to use our name will only sow confusion. The thousand or so members of the genuine PMAP—many of whom represent prestigious firms like the Ayala Group, San Miguel Corp., PLDT, Meralco, various banks and hotels, educational institutions and even government-owned and controlled corporations—are quite concerned that our PMAP is often mistaken as a ragtag group of professional demonstrators and protesters, or a society of ramp models marketing bikinis, briefs or negligees, leaving too little to the imagination.

The political "PMAP" and the, shall we say, the sartorial or fashion-minded "PMAP" are, with all due respect, taking away from what we claim as our only authentic PMAP the integrity and the indivisibility of that name. Thus, the time has come to shed off our demure predisposition and our equivocation. We have to stand up and protect the sanctity of the name by which we are known. Our PMAP is the organization of which Senate President Frank Drilon was vice president years ago.

There is a battle we have to wage from various fronts. And if we really value our identity, we should be ready to defend every inch of our territory. There is the legal battle we have to fight. The battlefields are the mindsets and paradigms of the people.

There is an option being proposed by some sectors in our PMAP that we might as well abandon that name altogether and find another name. Perhaps HRAP (Human Resources Association of the Philippines), but it sounds like HIRAP or poor, the very one which the so-called "PMAP" (People's Movement Against Poverty) claims to wage war against. We don't want a HRAP vs. PMAP combat.

Then one guy who, we suspect, was partisan to the pro-Erap "PMAP" proposed a very controversial name, ERAP (Employee Relations Association of the Philippines). Do we need to belabor the risks and hazards being implied by the name. That is a name that is not politically correct.

To our mind, a search for another name is not a preferable option because it would mean an implied surrender of our original, authentic and genuine name, the true PMAP. If we were to have our way, we should adhere to this name and stick to it, even fight for it in order to exclude others from using the name, for good or in vain.

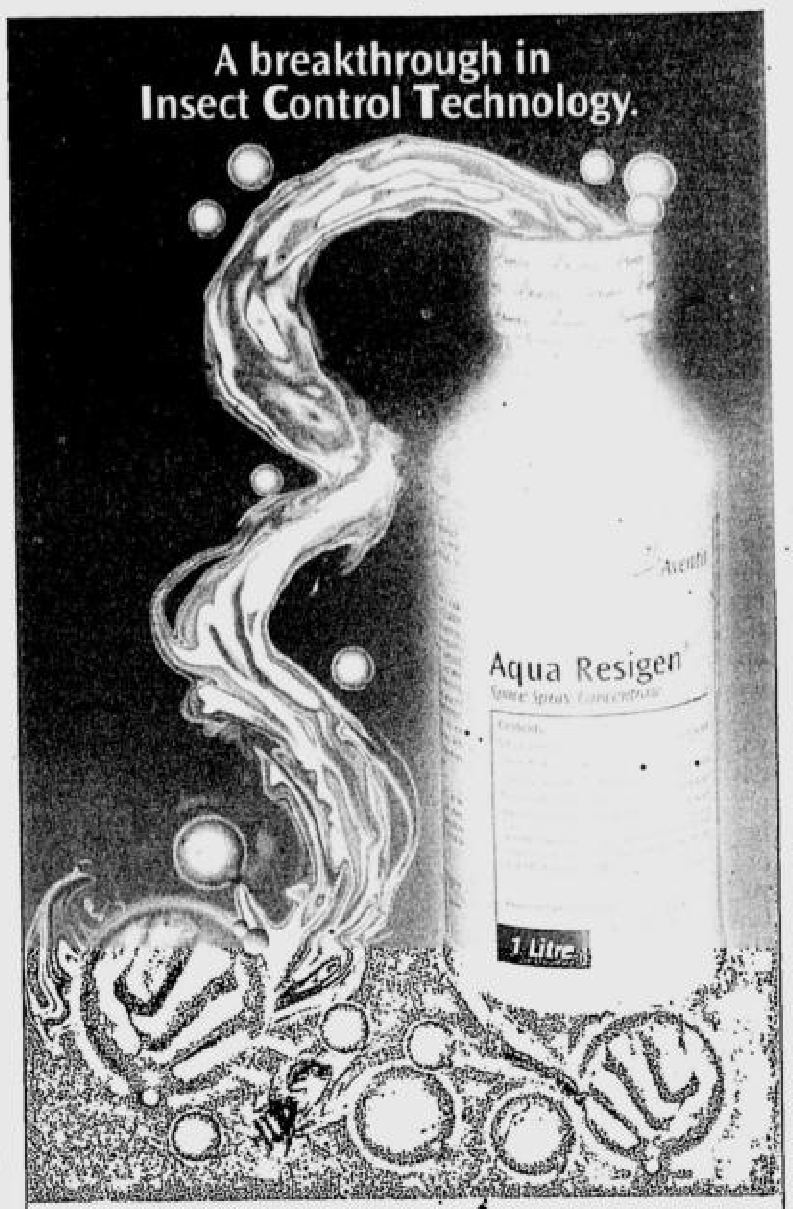
The incumbent president of the true PMAP, Ernie Espinosa, a well-accomplished HR professional and a veteran in personnel and HR management, has decided to take a stand on this issue. He has the unanimous backing of the 15-member board and the organization's executive officers. And we therefore have to support him all the way.

What will happen if another country will be founded and would use the name Republic of the Philippines? Should Filipinos remain indifferent to such an affront? What will happen if another unknown entity would claim to be Ayala or another San Miguel, would Ayala Corp.'s and SMC's battery of lawyers not raise hell to fight for every inch of their paradise?"

This is now the task and the challenge before us. Even if the essence of our association lies not in our name but in the core values we cherish and the fundamental principles we are committed to uphold, the name that we have chosen for ourselves symbolize the genuine identity by which we are known. Thus, we have to fight for that name. We owe it to our founding fathers like Peck Sison, King Doromal, and our past presidents to defend our name.

When I was about to take the Bar exams some years ago, I had to petition the Regional Trial Court in Cebu to give me a judicial approval to change my name from Joseph, by which I was baptized, to Josephus which I had been using since grade school to graduate school. The judge had to subpoena my mom to testify and explain the discrepancy. That is, after a three-week publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

That is how important a name is. That is how valuable PMAP, as a name, is to the more than a thousand corporations which are its members and the HR professionals who represent these firms. To us, we are the only PMAP. There is much value in our name and PMAP by any name won't smell as sweet. Ponder on that.



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RP is featured country in major Canadian expo

CANADA has chosen the Philippines as the featured country this year for the Klondike Days Exposition in Alberta, giving the Philippines a global opportunity to promote its trade, investments and tourist destinations to more than 750,000 visitors.

The Philippine showcase in Klondike will be within the context of the celebration of the "Pahiyas," the colorful harvest festival of Lucban in Quezon Province.

This was announced yesterday by Mina Gabor, president of the Philippine Small and Medium Business Development Foundation (Philsmed). Philsmed is the official country coordinator for the Philippine participation to the expo.

A 5,200-square-meter slot has been reserved during the 10-day duration of Klondike Expo (July 18 to 28) for the showcase Mabuhay Philippines 2002 in Northlands Park, Edmonton, Alberta.

"Being selected the feature country is a major signal to the rest of the world that the Philippines is an important country for trade and tourism opportunities," Gabor said.

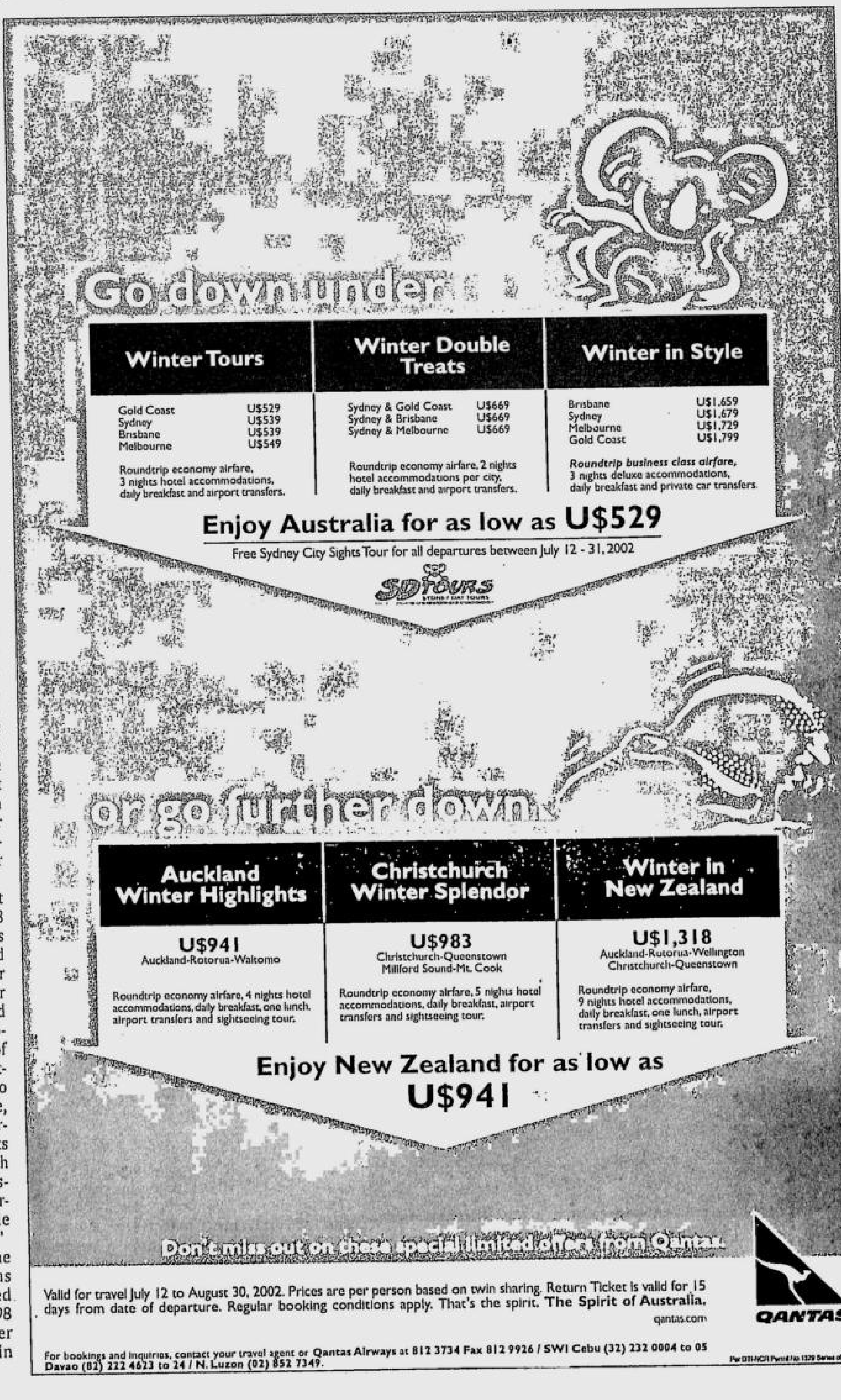
"This is the first time since 1998 when the Philippines was the featured country in a major trade festival," Gabor said. "As a featured country, the Philippines avails itself of the strategic marketing opportunity to promote its culture, its products and services, tourism spots to target groups such as new trade prospects, investors, tourists, and the trade and business press."

The last time the Philippines was made a featured country was in 1998 during the Hanover Industrial Fair in Germany.

Delegations from Quezon, Leyte, Cebu, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, National Capital Region and Bohol are participating in Mabuhay Philippines 2002. Among the major sponsors are Philippine Airlines, San Miguel Corp., La Tondeña, Touch of Green, Scherer Jardin and Lucban, Quezon.

Gabor said the selection as feature-country re-enforces the gains earned by President Macapagal-Arroyo during her working visit to Canada earlier this year.

She said the number of visitors to the Klondike Expo could exceed 750,000 this year due to the spillover from the World Youth Day in Vancouver and in Toronto.



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AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BANKING GROUP LIMITED

3rd Flr. Tower One Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

STATEMENT OF CONDITION

As of June 18, 2002

ASSETS		Amount
Cash and Cash Items	P	4,328,723.30
Due from Central Bank		1,801,020,507.14
Due from Other Banks		1,615,520,270.01
Interbank Loans Receivable		120,000,000.00
Trading Account Securities		2,135,000,000.00
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		994,006,058.03
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)		2,868,870,167.65
Equity Investments (Net)		2,570,850.00
Due from Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad		1,067,740,571.69
Bank Premises, Furnitures, Fixtures and Equipments (Net)		13,113,758.11
Other Assets (Net) Others		92,643,822.07
TOTAL ASSETS	P	10,604,841,628.66

LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	280,004,705.38
Savings Deposits		2,037,702,404.18
Time Deposits		2,007,086,598.04
Special/Other Deposits		7,086,110.65
Due to Central Bank		1,432,007.12
Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad		3,508,090,343.57
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		3,123,116.80
Bills Payable		
Interbank Borrowings		52,332,447.26
Others		158,070,000.00
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		246,221.35
Other Liabilities		123,032,511.36
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	10,075,778,715.77

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		Amount
Assigned Capital	P	444,373,634.54
Other Capital Accounts		84,741,278.35
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	529,004,912.89
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	10,604,841,628.66

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	1,050,003,315.78
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		2,469,586,130.83
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		2,056,575,620.69
Other Contingent Accounts		6,352,400,853.45
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	12,535,661,920.75

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
HEAD OFFICE

As At 30 September 2001
In AUD Millions

Capital	5,250
Surplus	5,292
Profits	4,582
Total Deposits	104,874
Total Resources	185,493

LIST OF SENIOR OFFICERS:

Mr. Johnny Co	General Manager and Country Head
Mr. Kim Chan	Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Nonilo Cruz	Senior Vice President - Business Banking
Ms. Regina Fajardo	Vice President - Treasury
Mrs. Bee Lian So	Vice President - International Services

Other information

1	Deposits of		
	a Government		nil
	b. Banks		391,800.50*
	c Trust Department		nil
2.	Compliance with Magna Carta Law		
	Prescribed Ratio: 6% Small Ent; 3% Medium Ent		
	Actual Compliance: 100%; 150%		
3.	Amount of Non-Performing Loans	P	149,123,381.09
4.	Ratio of Non-Performing loans to total loan portfolio		[illegible]
5	Amount of classified loans and other risk assets		[illegible]
6.	General Provision for Loan Losses		[illegible]
7.	Specific Provision for Loan Losses		[illegible]
8.	Return on Equity (ROE) - Based on Assigned Capital		[illegible]
	Return on Equity (ROE) - Based on Shareholder's Equity		[illegible]
	Return on Equity (ROE) - Inclusive of Net Due to HO		[illegible]
9	Amount of DOSRI loans/advances		3,480,741.51
10	Ratio of DOSRI loans/adv to total loans/advances		[illegible]
11	Amount of Past Due DOSRI loans /advances		nil
12	Ratio of Past Due DOSRI loans/adv to total loan portfolio		nil
13.	"Net Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad" forms part of capital of Philippine Branch of foreign bank	P	2,440,340,771.60

*Amended to conform with Circular No. 200 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to All Banks dated November 29, 1999

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

WE JOHNNY CO and KIM CHAN of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief

(Sgd.) JOHNNY CO
General Manager and Country Head

(Sgd.) KIM CHAN
Chief Operating Officer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 09 July 2002, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax Certificate No. 11917495, issued at Makati City, on February 21, 2002 and Passport No. E7049740, issued at Jakarta, Indonesia, on June 2, 1998

BENJAMIN B. MATA
NOTARY PUBLIC
Until Dec. 31, 2002
PTR O.R. No. [illegible]
Date Issued 02 January 2002

Doc. No. 294
Book No. 81
Page No. XLIII
Series of 02

Sta. Elena Village: Homes along sprawling fairways

STA. ELENA Properties is expected to complete shortly the first phase of its Sta. Elena Village development, a world-class residential village where modern comfort and leisurely living blend seamlessly with pristine forests and gently rolling landscape in the heart of Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

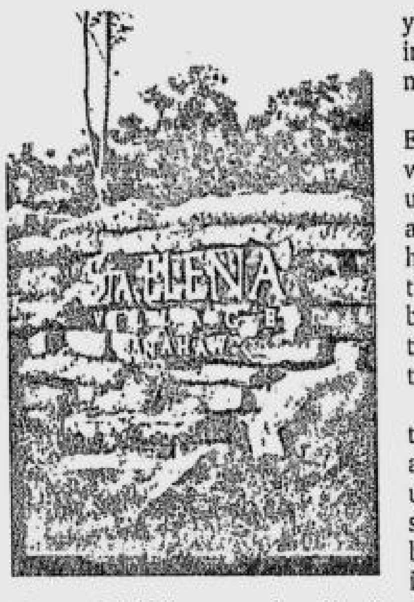
Sta. Elena Village-Banahaw, the first of the three residential development projects planned by the company, is an exclusive 103-lot residential enclave in the midst of the sprawling greens of the Banahaw course, which forms part of the 27-hole Sta. Elena Golf Course.

The company spent P250 million for this portion of the project alone, says Sta. Elena Properties project development manager Gippy Tantoco.

Tantoco said the development of Sta. Elena Village-Banahaw, which started one-and-a-half years ago, was almost completed and that the company has already started selling 580-square-meter and 1,100-square-meter lots at a price range of P5 million to P10 million. He said the village's recreation center was scheduled for completion within the year.

Sta. Elena Village development project is a brainchild of Sta. Elena Properties vice chair and general manager Bienvenido Tantoco Jr., Gippy's father.

"Ten years ago, I envisioned a place surrounded by woodlands and a golf course where I could live with all the world's modern comforts, and still be an hour's drive away from Makati. Then it was a dream. Now it is one step short of fulfillment, of reality," the elder Tantoco said.



The elder Tantoco took his vision and worked closely with master planner Palafox Associates to convert vast sugarlands into a world-class residential community within an exceptional golf course.

"The beauty of Sta. Elena is that it provides a home for the future residents while building a nature sanctuary for our country's flora and fauna," explains Tantoco. "I love communing with nature. And here at Sta. Elena, it is not surprising to hear birds chirping away any time of the day."

The village is now home to over 102 bird species, 1,400 plant species and over 150 rare species of Philippine forest trees. This, however, did not happen overnight. This was painstakingly built, grown and developed through the years. Sta. Elena started planting in 1992 and now boasts of half a million strong trees.

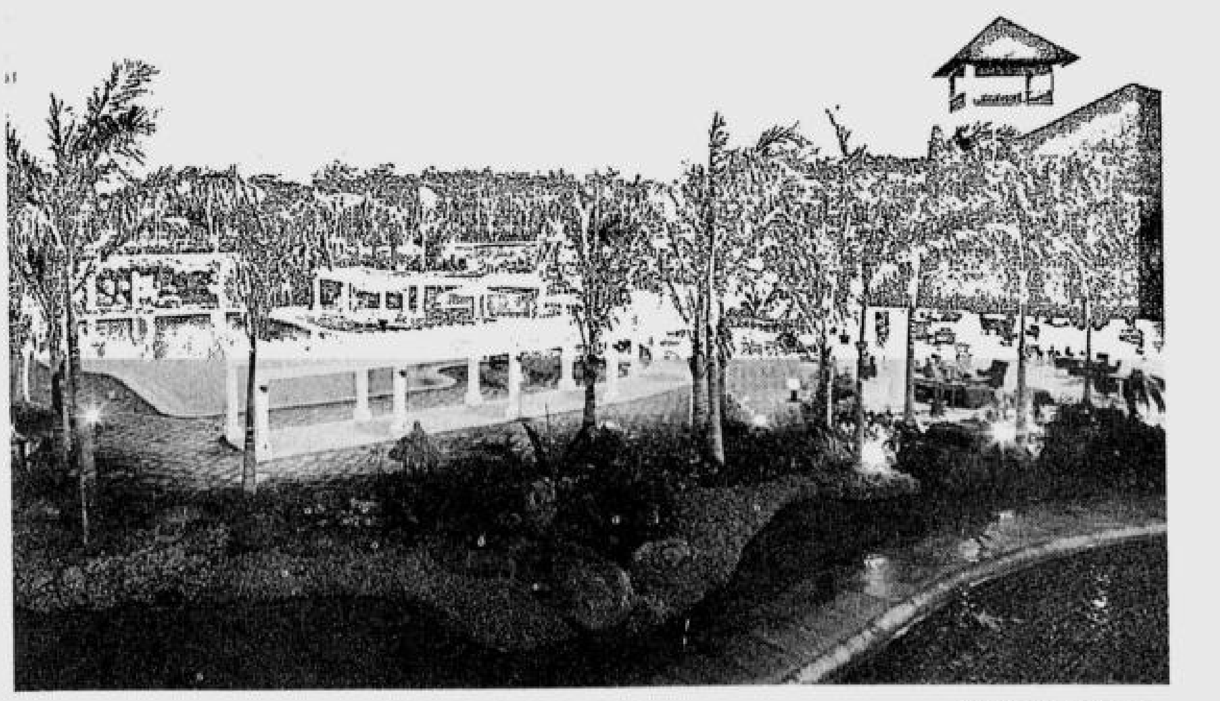
Environmental consultant Edgardo de Vera believes that what sets Sta. Elena apart is its unwavering commitment to create a residential community and a habitat for birds and butterflies at the same time. The presence of birds and butterflies tells you that the environment is good enough to allow flora and fauna to thrive.

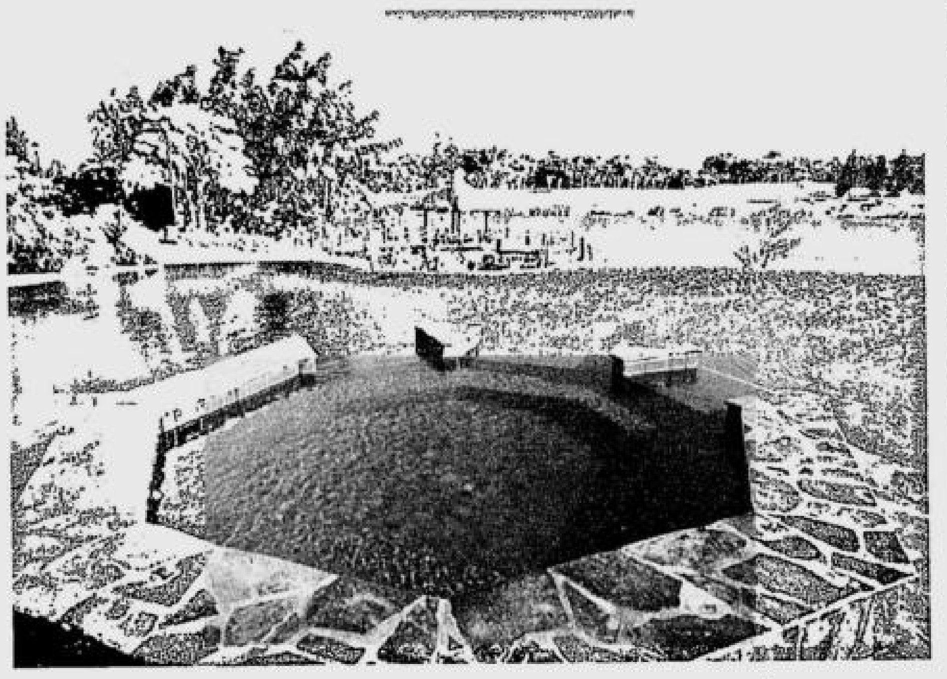
Sta. Elena-Banahaw boasts of top-notch facilities, infrastructure and design. It is equipped with underground utility and auxiliary systems, built-in irrigation, stand-by generator, electronic entry and intrusion alert system, and an underground reservoir with a capacity of one million liters of water.

Tantoco adds, "Sta. Elena offers a home where nature and a well-managed ecological environment are top-of-mind. It offers a world-class community with thriving plant and animal life, well away from the stress and pollution of the city."

In designing Sta. Elena, the plan was to make it the absolute yet accessible escape for the entire family. A place where families would want to live.

As such, Sta. Elena Village built its own Balinese-inspired clubhouse where families can rest and pass the time. Alongside the clubhouse stands a five-story view tower that shows you a picturesque view of Sta. Elena—the treetops dotting the golf course, the view of Mt. Makiling, the chance to see birds in flight. All these are bound to take your breath away.





THE VISION of combining the comfort of modern living and the beauty of nature is realized by Sta. Elena Village. Just 45 minutes away from Manila, Sta. Elena provides world-class residential facilities, including a clubhouse (top) and a pool (left). Its sanctuary of flora and fauna gives it an edge over other projects.

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Gov't urged to resolve political, security woes

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE FINANCIAL and capital markets sector yesterday appealed to the government to resolve the squabble in the Senate and other political concerns in order to restore investor confidence in the Philippines.

The appeal was contained in a position paper that was presented to the government's economic managers during an economic forum yesterday by the Financial and Capital Markets Council (FCMaC).

The group also said that graft and corruption in the government, the peace and order situation and the ballooning budget deficit were among the factors that weighed down heavily on market sentiment.

The stock market, for instance, rallied sharply in the first quarter to become one of the world's best performing bourses but it failed to sustain these gains, which were completely wiped out in the second quarter.

FCMaC is a group of market participants composed of six business organizations: Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines, Investment Houses Association of the Philippines, Trust Officers Association of the Philippines, Fund Managers Association of the Philippines, Money Market Association of the Philippines and the Investment Companies Association of the Philippines.

The forum was attended by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas, Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., Energy Secretary Vincent Perez and the Philippines' investment relations officer Corazon Guidote.

"We at FCMaC feel that one of the primary ingredients that will likely spoil the broth in the legislature is the current political gridlock in the Senate," FCMaC director and spokesperson Jo Anne Eala said.

"We fear that this situation could delay the passage of important bills, those that affect our industry included. Such a jumpball situation happens all too often in the course of a particular political calendar. The all-too-critical situation here is that this bottleneck will inevitably tie up the administration's legislative agenda for a considerable period," Eala said.

Among the legislative concerns deemed as urgent by the industry are:

- The Personal Equity Retirement Act or Pera.
- Revised Investment Company Act (Rica).
- Elimination of the Documentary Stamp Tax on secondary trades.
- Revision in the securities law.
- Special Purpose Asset Vehicle bill (SPAV).

JG Summit, partner to infuse ₱6.5B in petrochem firm

JG Summit Holdings Inc. (JGSHI) and Marubeni Corp., 80-20 partners in JG Summit Petrochemical Corp. (JGSPC), have announced their plan to infuse P6.5 billion more into their petrochemical company to reduce its interest expense and make it more viable and competitive.

JG Summit owns 80 percent of the joint venture while its Japanese partner controls a 20-percent equity.

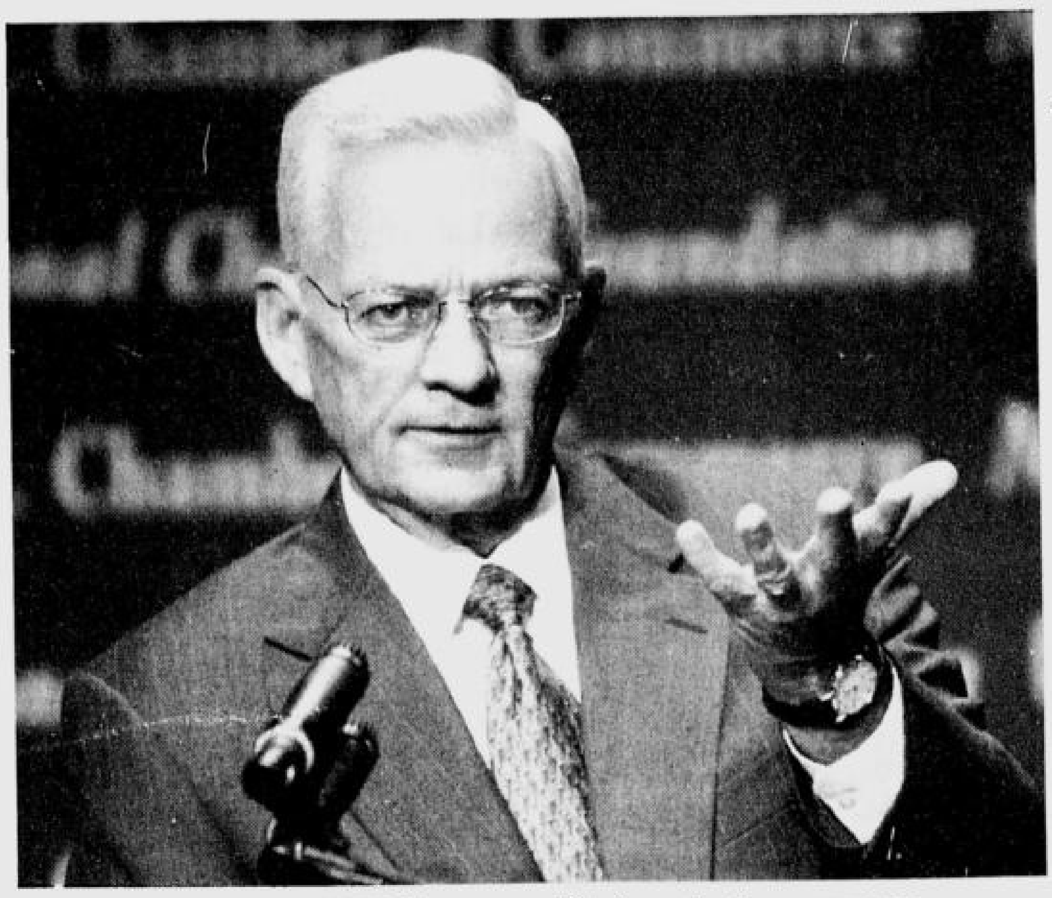
The plan calls for the conversion into equity of loans extended to JGSPC by JGSHI in the amount of $100 million. Marubeni, for its part, will assume a loan from JBIC, which Marubeni guaranteed for the petrochemical company, and convert it into equity.

The conversion plan underscores the partners' commitment to the viability of JGSPC, which has been burdened with significant interest and principal payments and whose operating margins have been adversely affected by rampant smuggling of petrochemical products, misdeclaration of imports and low consumption growth brought about by the prevailing poor economic conditions.

With this debt-to-equity conversion, JGSPC will have a significantly stronger balance sheet, capital base, and improved cash flow.

"In effect, we are making JGSPC a stronger company that—given its state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and quality products—should be able to compete more effectively and serve its customers better," JGSHI chair James Go said.

JGSPC is the leading polyethylene (PE) and polypropylene (PP) manufacturer in the country, with sales of P4 billion in 2001.



TREASURY Secretary Paul O'Neill gestures while discussing the economy on Wednesday during an address at the US Chamber of Commerce in Washington. AP

June retail sales in US seen to rise slightly–economists

CHICAGO—Warmer weather probably coaxed Americans out of their homes and into stores in June, but economists said an anticipated jump in Friday's retail sales data is unlikely to spur the Federal Reserve to hike interest rates.

In a Reuters poll, economists forecast that retail sales rose 0.7 percent overall and 0.5 percent excluding autos.

"This (should be) a reversal from the drop in May. It shows that the consumer is still alive and kicking," said Brian Wesbury, chief economist at Griffin, Kubik, Stephens & Thompson, who is looking for June retail sales to rise 0.8 percent overall and 0.4 percent excluding autos.

"This is one small piece of the puzzle the Fed is looking at," he said. "Without a turnaround in the stock market, it is unlikely the Fed will hike rates any time soon."

The Fed is widely expected to leave interest rates steady at least until the end of the year.

Some economists had worried that drastic declines in the US stock market and a slide in consumer confidence in June were signs that spending might soon flail. Healthy consumer spending, which accounts for about two-thirds of the US economy, helped soften the blow of the recession and is seen as important to keeping the economy humming along.

But initial indicators suggest those concerns are unfounded.

Rebound in apparel sales

"Based on the evidence that we've had so far, which is the rebound in auto purchases and the firmer tone in chain store sales, it doesn't appear that these worries translated into a more cautious approach to spending," said Jade Zelnik, chief economist at Greenwich Capital Markets.

Major US retailers report their June chain store sales on Thursday, after several stores released sales data weekly throughout the month.

Wesbury said he expected to see a rebound in apparel sales, since warmer weather persuaded Americans to head into air-conditioned malls and purchase summer clothing. In addition, he anticipates seeing gains in electronics, appliances and furniture on the back of record new-home sales in May.

While retail sales are likely to recover in June, the May numbers are potential candidates for a revision lower, said Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at LaSalle/ABN Amro in Chicago. In May, retail sales overall fell 0.9 percent and declined 0.4 percent, excluding automobiles. *Reuters*

Investor despair deepens on Wall St. as scandals mount

NEW YORK—If investors haven't thrown in the proverbial towel yet, they might be getting close.

Leading stock indicators sank to levels not seen in five years on Wednesday as investors showed no sign that they are ready to look past the accounting scandals that have plagued corporate America this year.

"This market has completely broken the spirit of investors," said Al Mirman, strategist at V Finance in Sarasota, Fla. "It is going to take a good year for investors' confidence to be reinstated."

The latest selloff comes amid a bear market that is already one of the worst in US history. Wall Street has seen a widespread dumping of stocks for nearly eight weeks.

The Dow Jones industrial average on Wednesday plunged 282.59 points, or 3.1 percent, to close at 8,813.50—its first finish below 9,000 since the recovery following the terror attacks.

The S&P 500 sank 32.36, or 3.4 percent, to close at 920.47. The index last finished lower on Nov. 13 1997, when it stood at 916.66.

And the technology-heavy Nasdaq fell 35.11 to 1,346.01—a level not seen since May 1997.

The losses are no doubt stunning, especially when considering the market is just two years removed from one of the most remarkable runs of all time. At the height of the dotcom frenzy, the Nasdaq was above 5,000.

While the latest losses weren't prompted by a new accounting fiasco, there was reason to question the strength and pace of a business recovery.

For example, General Motors slid $3.53 to $47.61 and Ford fell $1.12 to $13.99 after Banc of America downgraded the stocks.

The move left many investors feeling that few, if any, safe havens exist in the market. Losses spilled across sectors.

Pharmaceutical company Merck dropped $2.18 to $43.57 after announcing Tuesday that it was postponing for the third time in two weeks the initial public offering of its Medco unit.

Airline stocks closed at or near their lows that followed the terror attacks. Delta fell 52 cents to $17.75.

There were some bright spots. Technology bellwether Cisco Systems rose 59 cents to $13.73, and Extreme Networks advanced 65 cents to $9.98 after Merrill Lynch raised its near-term rating on the stocks.

Although improved earnings in the coming months could provide a boost to the market, analysts say corporate trust is the key factor.

"True, we need better (earnings) numbers, but we need numbers we can trust," Mirman said.

Investors might not be happy sitting on Wall Street's sidelines, but with the problem-ridden market headed for a third straight losing year they see no reason to budge.

After a string of accounting debacles at such firms as WorldCom, Xerox and Enron Corp. and more than two years of declines on Wall Street, investors can't be blamed for sitting on Wall Street's sidelines, analysts say.

"Confidence is so low that the average investor is saying, 'I am fine keeping (my money) in a money market account at 1.5 percent. And when I see the worst is over, maybe I'll think about putting more money in the stock market,'" said Thomas F. Lydon, president of Global Trends Investments in Newport Beach, Calif. *AP*

Microsoft expects Q4 profits to hit target

SEATTLE—At a time when other software and computer hardware companies are being hit hard by the slump in corporate spending, Microsoft Corp. appears on track to post a fourth-quarter profit at the high end of its own guidance, analysts said.

Microsoft's results, due after the close of US markets on July 18, will be closely watched for how the software giant views the outlook for personal computer sales, which have remained weak despite signs of an economic recovery.

Many analysts expect Microsoft to report fourth quarter earnings at the upper end of the 41 to 42-cents-per-share range that it has projected.

The more bullish see even better results: Credit Suisse First Boston's George Gilbert is calling for a net profit of 45 cents per share and Sanford C. Bernstein & Co.'s Charles Di Bona is expecting 46 cents per share.

The average forecast of the 25 analysts surveyed by Thomson First Call was for 42 cents per share, excluding goodwill charges.

In the previous year, Microsoft had a net profit of $66 million, or one cent per share, after taking a charge for investment losses.

The consensus forecast calls for sales of $7.06 billion, up from $6.6 billion a year earlier.

Intel Corp. and Advanced Micro Devices Inc., which make the chips that Microsoft's Windows operating system runs on, recently warned that the protracted year-long slump in PC sales had forced them to pare back their own estimates for the just-ended quarter.

Analysts said Microsoft was also hit by weaker PC demand, but noted an upcoming shift in its licensing strategy helped protect revenue during the last quarter of its fiscal year.

"We think Microsoft's June quarter remains on track despite Intel's preliminary results," Prudential Securities analyst John McPeake wrote in a recent report.

Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft still relies on its desktop segment for two-thirds of its revenue. In the fiscal year-to-date, 33.5 percent of sales were from desktop applications, such as the Office, while 32.5 percent came from sales of its Windows series of operating systems.

The software giant has been diversifying into new areas, such as high-end enterprise software and consumer-oriented products such as its eight-month-old Xbox video game console. *Reuters*

Rating agencies cautious on Vivendi after debt plan

NEW YORK—The two major rating agencies remained cautious about media giant Vivendi Universal's credit standing on Wednesday even after the company said it had secured short-term capital from a group of international banks.

Both Moody's and Standard & Poor's acknowledged the Franco-American conglomerate's efforts to refinance its near-term debt as an important first step toward meeting its financial obligations.

"Today's announcement by the group that it has reached an agreement with a bank syndicate . . . is viewed as a first important refinancing step," S&P said in a statement.

But the agencies raised doubts about the Vivendi's ability to pay back its longer-term liabilities, saying that dependence on the lender banks' continued cooperation and adverse market conditions would continue to pressure the company's 19 billion euro ($18.77 billion) debt profile.

S&P said the cash-strapped media and telecommunications giant could still face a ratings cut of several notches, "in the absence of rapid and tangible progress toward significant refinancing." That would knock Vivendi's debt load, currently rated BBB-minus by S&P, well into speculative grade territory.

Moody's Investors Service, which lowered Vivendi's ratings to Ba1 or junk status on July 1, said it could further cut the company's ratings because doubts persist about its ability to manage its debt burden.

"The company's ratings remain under review for possible downgrade reflecting liquidity concerns but also uncertainties about the further development of its credit fundamentals," Moody's said in a release.

Analysts said the agencies' remarks about the company were in line with market sentiment and were unlikely to have considerable market impact.

Former CEO Jean-Marie Messier transformed Vivendi, once a French water and sewage utility, into a global media empire at a cost of some $50 billion, much of it debt. *Reuters*

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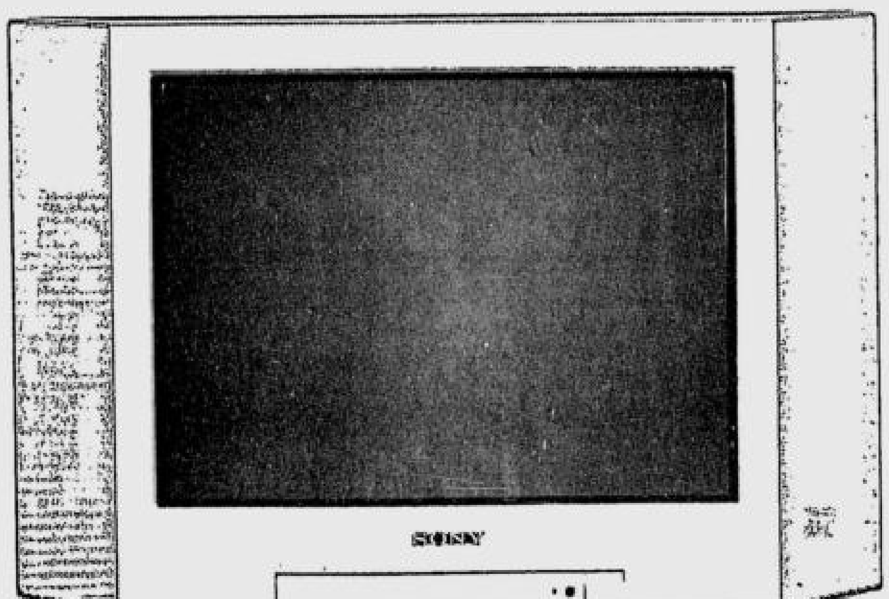

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Moderate growth to keep Asia interest rates low

SINGAPORE—Asian growth should gather pace this year with little inflation, allowing the region's central banks to keep interest rates at current low levels, a series of Reuters polls showed.

With growth in much of the region still below potential, fat current account surpluses and no building price pressure, Asian fixed-income assets, particularly short-dated instruments, may offer investors attractive returns, analysts said.

"The general uncertainty generating out of the US financial markets has created a number of dynamics . . . you have equity markets reacting, central banks' tightening calls being put off and it makes the case clearly for staying in fixed income," said David Fernandez, head of JPMorgan's Asian sovereign research.

He said global investors, scarred by high volatility in US credit markets, were seeking safe haven investments such as high grade Korean and Malaysian credits that offer lower volatility.

Local currency government bonds in Hong Kong and South Korea have rallied strongly recently with yields in Korea dropping 30-40 bps in the past few weeks and in Hong Kong by 15-20 bps.

South Korea's five-year treasury bond has rallied 90 bps since mid-May, while Thai bonds have also benefited from low inflation and hopes US rates would stay on hold. The Thai benchmark 10-year bond yield dropped 33 bps in June.

The Reuters polls, published July 5-10, included responses from more than 100 Asian regional economists in 13 countries.

Economists were cautious on export growth and expected inflation to stay moderate, the polls showed.

This reflects worries over export-dependent Asia's largest market, the United States, lack of strength in the important high-tech sector, and still sluggish domestic demand conditions.

The health of domestic demand varies across the region.

While it is boosting growth in South Korea, Thailand and Malaysia, rising unemployment is sapping consumer spending in export dependent economies like Hong Kong and Singapore.

"Concerns over exports is a rather homogeneous issue across the region and definitely a lot more dependent on the US currently," said Sameer Goel, Bank of America's market analyst Singapore.

Asian stocks have generally shown resilience to recent Wall Street losses that have prompted a dollar slide.

The dollar's weakness could benefit Asia as stronger regional currencies help rein in inflation without the need for higher interest rates.

South Korea provides a good example. While the Reuters poll showed Korea leading the rest of Asia with an expected growth of 6.4 percent in 2002, interest rates are not expected to soar, partly on the stronger won.

"(Korea's) stock market is down a lot and the currency is stronger. Adding all that up, it's probably suggesting the economy may be slowing a bit," said Lehman Brothers economist Rob Subbaraman.

South Korea's benchmark Kospi has slipped 18 percent since April and the won has risen to levels not seen since November 2000.

Asian policymakers and markets may have a chance to cement their interest rate views next week when Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan delivers his semi-annual testimony before the Senate Banking Committee.

Speculation has been growing a US rate hike may not come this year and this would likely influence Asian policymakers to hold fire.

Kaan Quan Hon, treasury market analyst at DBS Bank, said Singapore's yield curve would remain steep as shorter-dated instruments outperformed based on expectations of no tightening in monetary policy.

"We do not see rates making much headway yet, against a background of slowing loan growth, falling inflation and increasing prospects of a delayed US rate hike," he said. *Reuters*

Emerging Asia a bright spot in global economy, says IMF

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund believes growth will be strong in Asia this year despite severe financial worries in the United States after yet another corporate scandal, a senior IMF official said on Thursday.

"There certainly are jitters (in the US), especially after Wall Street's fall last night," Tom Dawson, the IMF's director of external relations, told a seminar in Manila. "But, broadly speaking, the (US) recovery is on track."

The Dow Jones Industrial Index plunged 3.11 percent on Wednesday, the largest decline since September 2001, after federal investigators launched an unspecified criminal investigation at telecommunications company Qwest Communications International Inc.

Economists have said a loss of confidence, especially after scandals at Enron Corp., WorldCom Inc. and other high-flying firms, could derail the recovery.

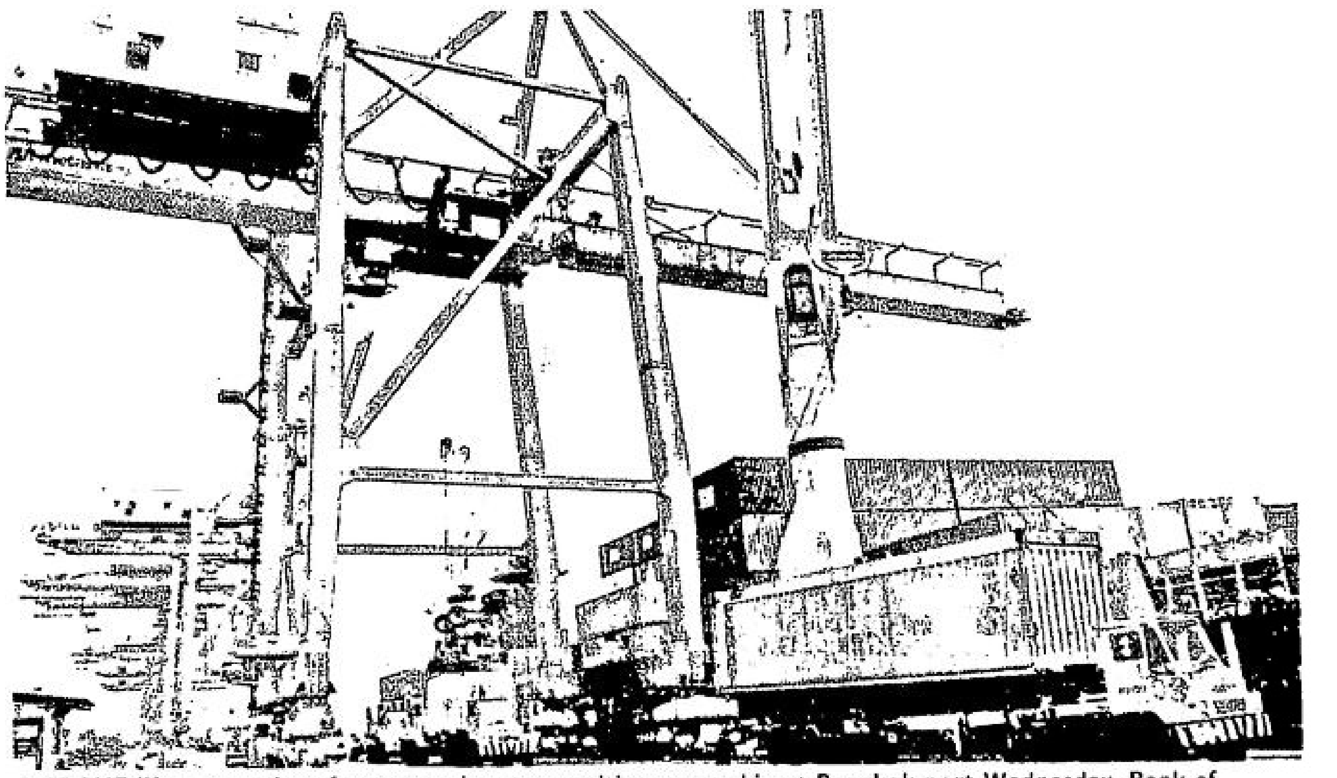
Despite the worries, economies in Asia were in sound shape, Dawson said.

"Emerging Asia is one of the bright spots in the global economy," he said. "If we have any upward revisions coming, it is likely to be in this region."

In April, the IMF said emerging economies in Asia would grow on average 5.6 percent this year.

Earlier this week, the Asian Development Bank raised its 2002 growth forecasts for the Association of South East Nations, China and South Korea to an average of 5.8 percent from the 5.2 percent it had forecast in April.

A Reuters poll of economists in the region, conducted this month, has also said 2002 growth prospects in Asia are more favorable than previously believed because of continued political stability, low inflation and a surge in exports. *Reuters*



A CRANE lifts a container from a truck onto a waiting cargo ship at Bangkok port Wednesday. Bank of Thailand governor Pridiyathorn Devakula said Wednesday that the current strengthening of the baht against the dollar was in line with other regional currencies and not affecting Thai exports which were still growing.

Singapore monetary authority keeps neutral policy stance on dollar

SINGAPORE—The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) said on Thursday that it would keep its neutral stance on the Singapore dollar this year as the city state's export-driven economy recovers and inflation remains benign.

Analysts and traders had expected the central bank to keep its neutral bias in its semi-annual policy statement in view of liquidity and economic conditions.

The Sing dollar eased to 1.7510 against the US dollar in early trade from 1.7490 late on Wednesday. It had hit a fresh nine-and-a-half-month high on Wednesday after surprisingly strong second-quarter economic growth.

"In view of the benign inflationary environment, and to facilitate continued economic recovery, MAS will maintain its current policy stance of a zero percent-appreciation in the S$NEER (nominal effective exchange rate) for the second half of 2002," it said in a statement.

The MAS said its policy stance took into account that some uncertainty remained on the strength of the recovery this year.

The Singapore dollar exchange rate, the MAS said, had largely fluctuated within the upper half of the policy band in the first half of the year.

"It initially strengthened over the first two months of the year, as the improved economic outlook led to portfolio inflows into the local and regional equity markets," it said. "The S$NEER subsequently eased and fluctuated within a narrow range."

Singapore's monetary policy has targeted the exchange rate rather than interest rates since 1981 to protect the small export-oriented economy from the impact of major capital flows in its financial sector.

Some analysts said the central bank's comment on the Sing dollar exchange rate largely fluctuating within the upper half of its policy band in the first half year was significant.

"That would actually help a few banks adjust their expectations. Some people have been thinking it was within the lower half," said Nizam Idris, an economist with IDEAglobal.com. *Reuters*

Pressure mounts on CEO of Deutsche Telekom

BERLIN—Deutsche Telekom on Wednesday said it would hold a board meeting next week, as pressure grew on its chief executive to step down after saddling Europe's biggest phone company with debt and seeing its shares tumble.

Telekom said the 20-member supervisory board, which is responsible for hiring and firing management, would gather next Tuesday "to discuss the situation" at the company.

Several German publications have reported that the government, Telekom's biggest shareholder, has lost patience with Ron Sommer, who has led the former national monopoly through a costly drive into markets such as the United States.

The government on Tuesday dismissed suggestions that Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder was lining up a veteran Volkswagen executive to take over from Sommer. But officials have stopped short of restating their faith in the 53-year-old.

"The company must think about people's confidence," Franz Muentefering, the secretary general of Schroeder's Social Democrats, said on ZDF television Wednesday. "It doesn't depend on a person, but the board must know that it needs to act."

The government owns 43 percent of the company and has two seats on the board, which is made up equally of employee and shareholder representatives.

A four-member steering committee called next week's board meeting after an acrimonious session on Tuesday, a person familiar with the discussions said.

Supervisory Board chair Hans-Dietrich Winkhaus argued for Sommer's removal during the 10-hour committee meeting but was opposed by two workers' representatives, the person said on condition of anonymity.

Deutsche Telekom officials didn't return calls seeking comment. *AP*

S. Korea firms set to increase investments in key facilities

SEOUL—South Korean companies are expected to raise facilities investments in 2002 by 4.8 percent year on year, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy said on Thursday.

The figure showed a marked increase from a planned 0.1-percent rise in facilities investments the 200 major companies indicated for this year in a survey in December of 2001, the ministry said in a statement.

A total of 200 major companies the ministry surveyed said they would invest 24 trillion won ($20.61 billion) to boost facilities this year, compared with 22.9 trillion won in 2001, it said.

"Overall investments are seen to have been raised due to an increase in investments by the semiconductor sector," the ministry said.

Facilities investments by shipbuilders this year are seen rising 24.4 percent year on year, while semiconductor makers are expected to boost facilities investments by 21.6 percent, it said.

Automakers are seen boosting facilities investments by 10.2 percent over the same period, the ministry said. *Reuters*

China exports rose 14.2% in June

BEIJING—China's exports rose 14.2 percent in the first six months of this year from the same period of 2001, a senior trade official said on Thursday in a sign the crucial sector is holding steady with government support.

First-half exports hit $142.12 billion, and imports were $128.52 billion, a rise of 10.3 percent, Vice Minister of Foreign Trade Ma Xiuhong told an investment seminar in Hong Kong.

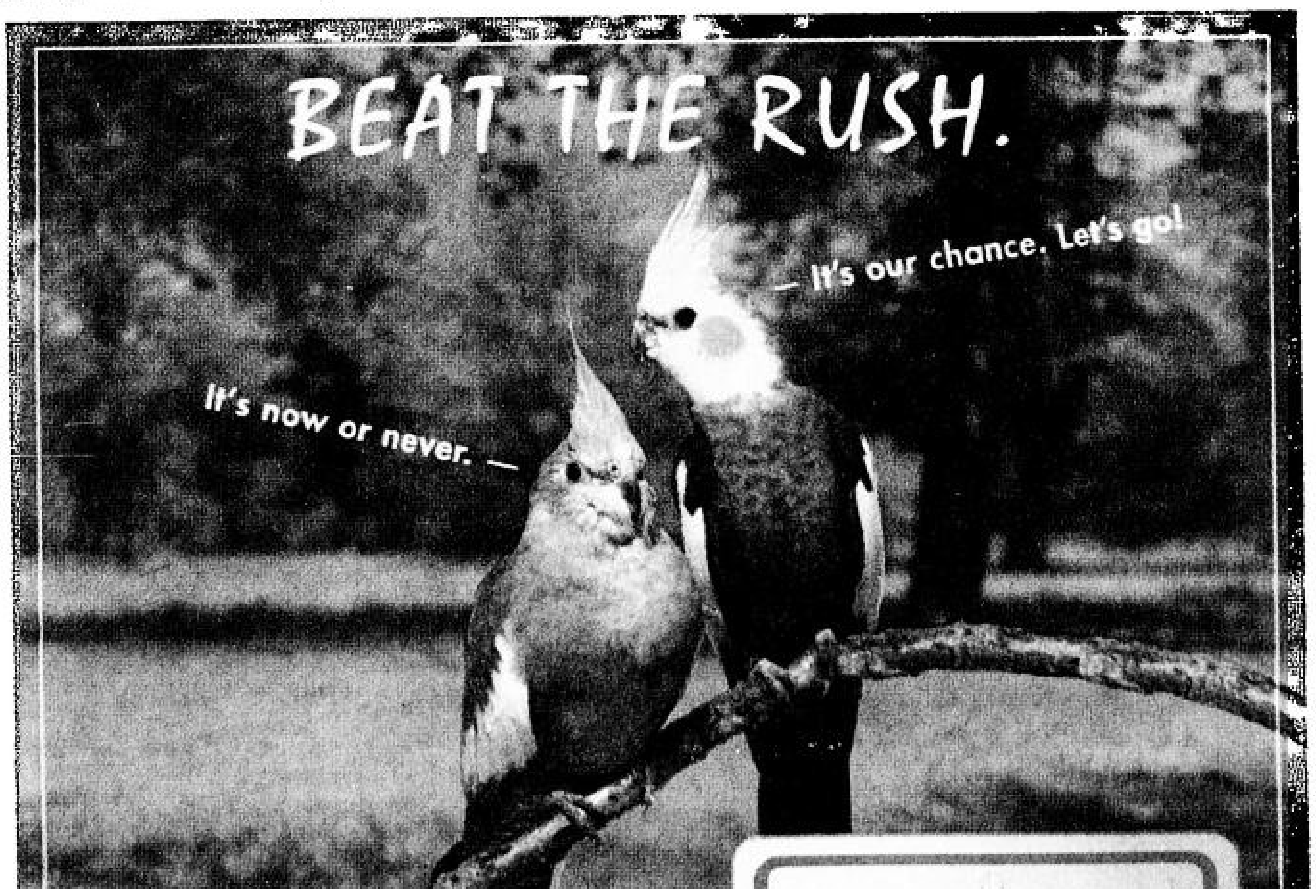
That works out to a trade surplus of $13.6 billion.

Ma did not give comparative figures, a breakdown of data for June alone, or other details.

The export growth in the first half was well ahead of China's official target of 7 percent for this year to help it achieve overall economic growth of 7 percent.

China's January to May exports rose 13.2 while imports were up 10.9 percent, according to earlier figures.

Growth in exports, a key economic driver, has swung wildly this year, soaring 18.4 percent in May and 17.2 percent in April after a surprisingly slow 3.4-percent rise in March. *Reuters*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US firms, CEOs grow cautious on strength of economic growth

NEW YORK—US businesses and corporate leaders have turned more cautious about the strength of the US economy's recovery, signaling that growth is likely to be sluggish for the rest of this year, two surveys showed on Wednesday.

A poll of 113 companies by the National Association for Business Economics showed they slashed current capital spending for the fifth quarter in a row during the April-to-June period—a record streak of cuts in the 20-year history of the NABE survey. Only 15 percent of those companies planned to hire workers over the next 12 months.

But none of the respondents expected the economy to contract again in coming quarters. Instead half forecast economic growth at a 2 to 3 percent annual rate in the second half of the year, down from a 6.1-percent growth rate in the first quarter.

In a separate survey from the Conference Board, chief executives grew more pessimistic about the short-term outlook even as their assessment of current business conditions improved in the second quarter.

The Conference Board's business confidence index, calculated through a quarterly survey of more than 100 business chiefs, fell to 61 in the April-June period from 66 in the first quarter.

The reluctance of companies to make new business investments or hire workers are the main reasons why Federal Reserve officials have suggested they are in no rush to push up interest rates from four-decade lows of 1.75 percent.

"The two key things from the Fed's standpoint are decent employment gains and a rebound in capital investment," said Stephen Stanley, senior financial economist at Greenwich Capital Markets.

"We're making headway on both fronts, but it's been a frustratingly slow process. What's going on in the stock market doesn't help," he said

US stocks were pounded again on Wednesday on new worries of corporate accounting and earnings. The broad Standard & Poor's 500 index fell more than 3 percent to the lowest level since October 1997.

Even with conservatism ruling the day, nearly 70 percent of chief executives polled by the Conference Board said they expect corporate profits to rise over the next 12 months.

"Executives continue to rate current economic conditions favorably, but they are more cautious looking ahead," Lynn Franco, director of the Conference Board's consumer research center, said in a statement. *Reuters*

Yahoo ends losing streak, reports profit

PALO ALTO, California—Internet media company Yahoo! Inc. on Wednesday broke a year-and-a-half-long losing streak by posting a net profit on sharply higher revenues, saying it had put the dot-com bust behind it and was rapidly signing up new advertisers and paying customers.

Yahoo, which had previously suffered six straight quarters of net losses, reported a net profit of $21.4 million or 3 cents per share in the second quarter, compared with a loss of $48.5 million or 9 cents per share in the year-earlier period.

Analysts on average had been expecting Yahoo to post a profit of 2 cents per share, according to research firm Thomson First Call.

The company also raised its financial guidance for the remainder of the year.

Revenues rose 24 percent to $225.8 million from $182.2 million a year earlier, reflecting a number of initiatives taken to offset the loss in dot-com company advertisers that had fueled its first round of growth.

Those moves included the acquisition of the career site HotJobs, the addition of paid ads in its search results, and premium, pay-for-use services like personals and advanced e-mail. *Reuters*

US scams raise questions on EU's structural reforms

FRANKFURT—Europe may be gloating over America's accounting scandals, but the speed with which some EU leaders have criticized US-style capitalism raises questions over their own commitment to structural reform.

Some politicians, surveying the wreckage of Enron and WorldCom, could not resist using the lack of similar excesses here to defend Europe's way of doing business.

But it looks premature to declare Europe free from problems, particularly while a probe in French media giant Vivendi Universal has just got under way.

"The US has not got a monopoly on failing businesses, although they do appear to have a dominant market share," said Christopher Huhne, economic spokesperson for the Liberal group in the European Parliament.

European Union leaders want the bloc to become the best place to do business by 2010 and have promised an ambitious agenda to shake up old fashioned practices.

But bitter opposition to the hire-and-fire habits of Anglo-Saxon corporate culture makes life hard for politicians seeking reelection, like German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

Lagging in opinion polls for the Sept. 22 general election, Schroeder has barely been able to conceal his satisfaction with recent events, which he said exposed the poverty of the Anglo-Saxon virtue of shareholder value.

"Now it has been revealed that egotism practiced at the top under the catchphrase 'shareholder value' is worth less in macroeconomic terms . . . than a system based on a fair balance between the interests of workers and employers," he said.

In contrast to Anglo-Saxon practice, big German firms have a supervisory board with a say in major decisions which places ordinary members of staff among the top decision takers.

Dutch and French firms also appoint boards of outsiders to oversee management, although they lack the teeth of Germany's "aufsichtsrat," and these are generally supposed to create a more conciliatory atmosphere, which avoids strikes and stoppages.

Critics of the system point out that strikes still take place and that the consequence of making it harder to fire someone is normally higher unemployment.

The fact that nothing has been discovered so far on the scale of Enron or WorldCom may signal that additional oversight can play a role in keeping the greedy at bay. *Reuters*

NYSE may suspend trade of Kmart shares

TROY, Michigan—Kmart Corp. said Wednesday that it has been notified by the New York Stock Exchange that its common stock could be subject to a trading suspension and delisting within the next six months.

The retailer, which is in Chapter 11 bankruptcy; said it received the notification because the average share price of its common stock for the past 30 days has been below $1.

The NYSE's criteria for continued listing include a requirement that a company's common stock trade at a minimum average share price of $1 over a 30-day period.

Kmart must return to compliance with the NYSE's criteria for continued listing within six months following receipt of the NYSE's notification. If the company does not meet that deadline, the common stock could be subject to the trading suspension and delisting.

If the stock ceases to be traded on the NYSE, Kmart officials said they believe that an "alternative trading venue" will be available, the company said in a prepared statement.

William A. Brandt Jr., president and chief executive of Development Specialists Inc., predicted Kmart would not oppose being delisted and that it would happen within 45 to 60 days.

"At this time in its corporate life, Kmart should not spend its time worrying about its share price," Brandt said from his New York office. "Kmart stock right now isn't something John Q. Public is going to buy."

Kmart's alternatives include being listed on the American or Midwest stock exchanges, or trading its stock over the counter via so-called pink sheets, he said.

Expulsion from the NYSE likely would have little impact on the public's perception of Kmart, Brandt said. *AP*

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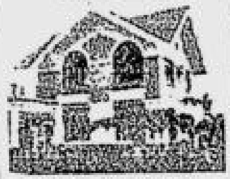
LOT

PARANAQUE



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PNOC - Energy Development Corporation
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC - Energy Development Corporation invites eligible suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

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and
360 mtrs PIPE; CARBON STEEL SA W/ERW, 30"Ø x 12M x S30
24 mtrs PIPE; CARBON STEEL SA W/ERW, 20"Ø x 12M x S30
384 mtrs PIPE; CARBON STEEL SA W/ERW, 18"Ø x 12M x S30
312 mtrs PIPE; CARBON STEEL SA W/ERW, 16"Ø x 12M x S30
132 mtrs PIPE; CARBON STEEL SA W/ERW, 14"Ø x 12M x S30
under FGJ - 22418

This invitation is open to all eligible suppliers of PNOC-Energy Development Corporation. Prospective bidders not presently pre-qualified with PNOC-Energy Development Corporation shall submit their pre-qualification documents not later than fourteen (14) days before the deadline for the submission of the bids. The bids of prospective (but not yet pre-qualified) bidders who fail to submit their pre-qualification documents before the above deadline or those who fail to meet the company's pre-qualification requirement on the bid deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened.

Bid documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o Mr. Rafly S. Taylan starting July 9, 2002 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference will be held on July 18, 2002, (FGJ-22107) and July 19, 2002, (FGJ-22418) at 2:00 p.m. at the above address.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security to be issued by the local agent/distributor, if any, with the amount indicated in the tender document, in the form acceptable to PNOC-EDC and must be delivered to the above office on or before 2:00 p.m. of August 8, 2002, (FGJ-22107) and August 9, 2002, (FGJ-22418). Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

(Sgd.) SERGIO ANTONIO F. APOSTOL
Chairman/President/C E O

(PDI – July 12 & 31, 2002)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

Thirteenth Offering

The National Housing Authority (NHA) is accepting bids for the sale of seventy three (73) residential lots in Monterrazas Village, Brgy. Tuding, Itogon, Benguet with areas ranging from 283 to 901 square meters and base prices ranging from P1,000 to P4,500.00 per square meter under credit terms.

Interested parties may secure the bid documents for a non-refundable fee of P200.00 from the NHA Project Office located at the D'Castellamonte Bldg., #12 Otek St., Baguio City.

SCHEDULE: The submission of the Pre-Qualification requirements will be received during office hours from 10 July 2002 to 14 August 2002. A pre-bid conference will be held on 8 August 2002 at 2:00 p.m. Sealed offers will be received from 8:00 AM. To 12:00 NN on 15 August 2002 which will be opened at 2:00 PM of the same day. All transaction will be held/entertained at the NHA Baguio Project Office.

The NHA reserves the right to reject or all bids, call off this tender prior to bid acceptance and call for new tender under amended rules as may be deemed advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN
General Manager

(PDI--July 10 & 12, 2002)

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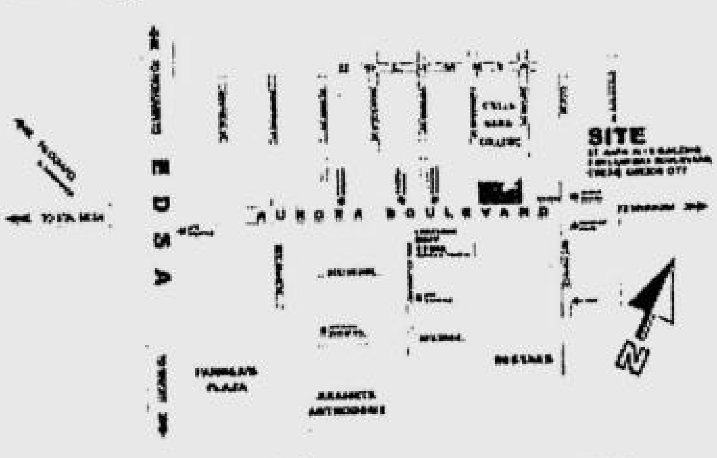
LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the heirs of Juan R. Lumutan executed an extrajudicial settlement w/waiver for TCT No. EP 23303 Nueva Ecija on 19 June 2002 as per Doc. 246, Page 50, Book XIII, Series of 2002 of Not. Pub. Arnold P. Castro of Nueva Ecija (PDI-July 5 12 & 19 2002)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE PENSION ACCOUNT OF RUDY D. VILLAMIL HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC. NO. 322; PAGE NO. 31; BOOK NO. 151; SERIES OF 2002 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ESTEBAN KAMPITAN OF QUEZON CITY
PDI-July 5, 12 & 19, 2002

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS



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Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR THE AVAILMENT FROM THE UNIVERSAL CHARGE THE ENVIRONMENTAL SHARE/ CHARGE FOR THE REHABILITATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WATERSHED AREAS

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Petitioner.
ERC Case No. 2002-194

x---x

ORDER

Pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9136, petitioner National Power Corporation (NPC) filed on **May 7, 2002** a "Petition" docketed as ERC Case No. 2002-194 praying that the proposed share from the Universal Charge for the environmental charge of P0.0025/kWh or a total of P119,488.847.59 be approved for withdrawal from the Special Trust Fund managed by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) for the rehabilitation and management of watershed areas.

Finding the said petition sufficient in form and substance with the required fees having been paid, the same is hereby set for hearing on **August 5, 2002** at nine o'clock (9:00 a.m.) in the morning at the ERC Hearing Room. 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The petitioner is directed to publish, at its own expense, the attached Notice of Public Hearing at least twice (2) for two (2) successive weeks in two (2) newspapers of nationwide circulation in the country, the last date of publication to be made not later than two (2) weeks before the scheduled date of initial hearing.

Let copies of this Order and the attached Notice of Public Hearing be furnished the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), the Commission on Audit (COA), the Committees on Energy of both Houses of Congress, the Department of Energy (DOE) and the (PSALM) who are hereby requested to have their respective duly authorized representatives present at the aforesaid initial hearing.

The evidence on the publication of the Notice of Public Hearing, consisting of the affidavits of the Editors or Business Managers of the newspapers wherein the said Notice of Public Hearing would be published, together with the complete copies of the issues of the said newspapers, should be submitted to the Commission by the herein applicant on the date of the initial hearing.

SO ORDERED.

Pasig City, June 19, 2002.

(Sgd.) **FE B. BARIN**
Chairman

(Sgd.) **MARY ANNE B. COLAYCO**
Commissioner

(Sgd.) **OLIVER B. BUTALID**
Commissioner

(Sgd.) **CARLOS R. ALINDADA**
Commissioner

(Sgd.) **LETICIA V. IBAY**
Commissioner

Copy furnished:

1. Atty. Rainer Butalid
   Atty. Comie P. Doromal
   Atty. Wilfredo J. Collado
   Atty. Henry P. Alog
   Counsels for Applicant
   Legal Department, National Power Corporation
   Diliman, Quezon City
2. National Power Corporation
   Attn.: Roland S. Quilala
   Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City
3. Office of the Solicitor General
   134 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, City of Makati - 1229
4. Commission on Audit
   Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City - 0880
5. Senate Committee on Energy
   GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City - 1300
6. House Committee on Energy
   Batasan Hills, Quezon City - 1126
7. Department on Energy (DOE)
   PNOC Complex, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, M.M.
8. Power Sector Assets and
   Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM)
   SGV Building II, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR THE AVAILMENT FROM THE UNIVERSAL CHARGE THE ENVIRONMENTAL SHARE/ CHARGE FOR THE REHABILITATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WATERSHED AREAS

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Petitioner.
ERC Case No. 2002-194

x---x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing on **May 7, 2002** by petitioner National Power Corporation (NPC) of a "Petition" docketed as ERC Case No. 2002-194 praying that the proposed share from the Universal Charge for the environmental charge of P0.0025/kWh or a total of P119,488,847.59 be approved for withdrawal from the Special Trust Fund managed by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) for the rehabilitation and management of watershed areas.

The Commission has set the petition for hearing on **August 5, 2002** at nine o'clock (9:00 a.m.) in the morning at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said petition should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the petition and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the petition by the petitioner, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the petition and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the petition and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable **FE B. BARIN**, Chairman, and the Honorables **MARY ANNE B. COLAYCO, OLIVER B. BUTALID, CARLOS R. ALINDADA** and **LETICIA V. IBAY**, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 19th day of June 2002 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **FRUCTUOSO C. LAGUNZAD, JR.**
Executive Director III

(PDI - July 12 & 19 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT II
SOUTHERN ISABELA GENERAL HOSPITAL
Santiago City

INVITATION TO BID

The **SOUTHERN ISABELA GENERAL HOSPITAL**, Santiago City hereby invites interested suppliers to provide medical equipment, drugs and medicines, laboratory, x-ray, medical, office and janitorial supplies to this office.

Only duly accredited manufacturers/suppliers as certified by the DOH may participate in the bidding. Bid documents can be secured from the SIGH HOBAC Secretariat, Administrative Services Section upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 400.00.

ACTIVITY	DATE / VENUE
Deadline of submission of Pre-Qualification Documents	July 17, 2002
Pre-Bid Conference	July 19, 2002 / Conference Room 9:00 am – 12:00 nn
Submission and Opening of Sealed Bids	
1. Drugs and Medicines	July 23, 2002 / Conference Room 9:00 am
2. Office Supplies	July 23, 2002 / Conference Room 1:30 pm
3. Medical, surgical, Dental, x-ray and Laboratory supplies	July 24, 2002 / Conference Room 9:00 am
Post-Qualification	July 26, 2002 / Conference Room

The SIGH reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the proposal received, or to accept such bids as maybe responsive and advantageous to the government.

For details, contact Novelinda P. Caleja – HOBAC Secretary, SIGH.

(Sgd.) **ASUNCION N. ABAYA, MD**
Chief of Hospital

(PDI – July 11 & 12, 2002)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA
SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the cost of Manila Second Sewerage Project (MSSP) and is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments for the Supply and Delivery of Sewer Maintenance Equipment and Accessories.

MWSS now invites sealed bids, under the **International Competitive Bidding (ICB)** procedure, from eligible bidders for **Contract No. MSSP-5D-2: Supply and Delivery of Sewer Maintenance Equipment and Accessories.**

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of:

**The Manager, Purchasing Department
Basement, Maynilad Water Services, Inc.
MWSS Complex, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Metro Manila, Philippines
Fax No. (632) 928-2303**

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder upon submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in cash or in check payable to Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) in the amount of **Php 2,500.00.**

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of not less than 2% of the bid amount and must be delivered **on or before 2:00 p.m., August 28, 2002** to:

**MWSS PBAC
MWSS Engineering and Project Management Department
G/F, Engineering Building
Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. No. 922-2569 • Fax No. 920-5413**

Late bids will not be accepted. The official time shall be based on the bundy clock located at the MWSS PBAC office.

All affiliated companies of the Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) are disqualified from taking part in the bid. Affiliated companies are those over which the concessionaires exercise control of voting stocks or which operate with them as part of a system or enterprise. They shall include, but not limited to those corporations which are subsidiaries, or owned or controlled by the concessionaires, or corporations in which the concessionaires have substantial interest. Bidders are required to submit together with the bid a sworn statement that the bidder is not an affiliated/associated company of MWSI.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representative at 2:00 p.m. on August 28, 2002 at the office of the MWSS PBAC, Ground Floor, Engineering Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted at the MWSS, Deputy Administrator Conference Room, Ground Floor Engineering Building on **August 6, 2002.**

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO C. HONDRADE**
Administrator

(PDI – July 11 & 12, 2002)

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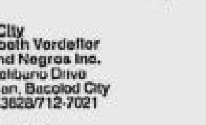

Diri na ta sa INQUIRER bay! Sayon na sulit pa!

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Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
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Tagbilaran City
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PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA
SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the cost of Manila Second Sewerage Project (MSSP) and is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments for the Supply and Delivery of Sewer Maintenance Vehicles.

MWSS now invites sealed bids, under the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedure, from eligible bidders for Contract No. MSSP-5D-1; Supply and Delivery of the following:

Sewer Maintenance Vehicles

Item No.	Description	Qty.	Units
A-1	Vacuum Truck (10 cu.m.)	8	units
A-2	Vacuum Truck (4 cu.m.)	2	units
A-3	Utility Truck	2	units

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of:

**The Manager, Purchasing Department
Basement, Maynilad Water Services, Inc.
MWSS Complex, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Metro Manila Philippines Fax No. (632) 928-2303**

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder upon submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in cash or in check payable to Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) in the amount of Php 2,500.00.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of not less than 2% of the bid amount and must be delivered on or before 2:00 p.m. **August 23, 2002** to:

**MWSS PBAC
MWSS Engineering and Project Management Department
G/F, Eng'g. Bldg., Metropolitan Waterworks
& Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. No. 922-2569
Fax No. 920-5413**

Late bids will not be accepted. The official time shall be based on the bundy clock located at the MWSS PBAC office.

All affiliated companies of the Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) are disqualified from taking part in the bid. Affiliated companies are those over which the concessionaires exercise control of voting stocks or which operate with them as part of a system or enterprise. They shall include, but not limited to those corporations which are subsidiaries, or owned or controlled by the concessionaires, or corporations in which the concessionaires have substantial interest. Bidders are required to submit together with the bid a sworn statement that the bidder is not an affiliated/associated company of MWSI.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives at 2:00 p.m. on August 23, 2002 at the office of the MWSS PBAC, Ground Floor, Engineering Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

A pre-Bid Conference will be conducted at the MWSS, Deputy Administrator Conference Room, Ground Floor Engineering Building on **August 1, 2002.**

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO C. HONDRADE**
Administrator

(PDI - July 11 & 12 2002)

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601, 2607 and other related provisions of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, there will be a Public Auction Sale to be conducted at PORT OF CEBU on **July 17, 2002** at 10:00 A.M. of the hereunder articles in lots. Said good shall be available for public viewing on **July 12 to 16, 2002**. For further inquiry, please contact the following telephone numbers 032-2561690/Customs Wharfinger, Tel. No. 4190543.

In the event of a failed bidding for want or lack of bidders or of an acceptable bid, the unsold lots shall be re-auctioned the succeeding business day at the floor price reduced by 20%.

Sale Lot No:	Description:
1 Lot	9,370 Bags of Rice
Under Litigation	(Flying Eagle Brand)
CSI No. 17-2002	Conditions, if any; as is where is
	Location: NFA Centennial Warehouse
Floor Price: P1,500/bag	

Requirements for participating bidders:

a) PhP2,000.00 registration fee; and

b) Cash bond deposit of PhP20,000.00 either in cash or manager's check refundable to the losing bidders after closing of the auction sale.

Registration fee and cash bond deposits are payable one (1) day before the date of actual bidding.

Port of Cebu, Cebu City, July 9, 2002.

(Sgd.) **Atty. JUAN N. TAN**
District Collector

(PDI--July 12, 2002)

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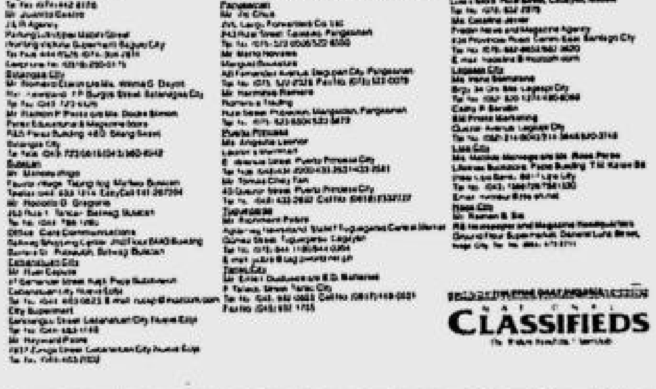

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"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened; and I will give you rest." *Matthew 11:28*

Atty. Salvador R. Ortega

October 21, 1940 - July 9, 2002

He is survived by his loving family **Laura Ann** and **Pedro, Carla, Monica, Katerina** and **Erick, Poch, Lucia, Jeremiah, Talitha** and **Woodrow**; grandchildren **Carlos** and **Javier**; his brother and sisters **Chito, Mari, Ditas** and **Ofy** .

His remains lie in state at the Don Bosco Funeral Chapel, Makati City. Service will be held on Friday, July 12 at 7:00 PM.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 13, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 2:00 PM Mass at Don Bosco.

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
— John 11:25-26

Charlie Clemente Agbayani

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 7, 2002 at the age of 46.

His bereaved wife **Clemen** and son **Mark John**; **Mama Guillerma**; brothers and sisters and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 14, 2002 at Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Baesa Road, Kaloocan City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Amanda Capistrano Castro

June 9, 1926 - July 9, 2002

Her bereaved husband **EUGENIO Sr.**; children **Manuel** and **Connie**, **Everilda**, **Eugenio Jr.** and **Marites**, **Helen** and **Nap**, **Amelita** and **Domingo**, **Lilian** and **Philip**, **Melba** and **Edwin**, **Oscar** and **Olivia**, **Jocelyn** and **Nellie**; grandchildren and great grandchild, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at their residence at Capistrano Compound, 46-A M.L. Quezon Street, Bambang, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on July 14, 2002 at Garden of Memories Memorial Park, Calzadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila after the 2:00 PM Mass at St. Anne Parish Church, Sta. Ana, Taguig, Metro Manila.

With Deep Sorrow
THE PMA CLASS OF 1966
Announces the passing of dearly beloved classmate

BGEN JUAN F MAMORNO AFP (Ret)

He peacefully joined our Lord on 09 July 2002 at the age of 60.

His bereaved wife **Teresita Jamillah "Tess"**; children **Rosarita Kadija "Janet", Maryam Cecilia "Marie", Hajrah "Haj"**; and son-in-law **Angelo Lubag Jr. "Angelo"**; classmates, other comrades-in-arms, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Veterans Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Necrological services will be held on 13 July 2002 at 7:00 PM.

Interment will be on Sunday, 14 July 2002, high noon, at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

SARAH VILLA-REAL CONDE

Died in the Grace of our Lord on July 11, 2002.

Her bereaved sisters **Constancia Conde Tolentino, Rosita Conde vda. de Lim,** and **Lourdes Conde vda. de Pangan**; brother **Jesus V. Conde**; brother-in-law **Senator Arturo M. Tolentino**; nephews & nieces, other relatives & friends, request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Parish Hall of Santuario de San Jose, East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

Interment will be announced later.

"You will remain forever in our hearts, Mommy."

MA. CONCEPCION A. BENGIL

"Ching"

of Marulas, Valenzuela City

Died in the Grace of our Lord on July 10, 2002 at the age of 60.

Her loving husband **Jesus Jr.**; children **Yrene & Wilbert**, and **Yvonne**; grand daughters **Paula** and **Julia**; parents **Valeriano** and **Beatriz**; sisters, nephews, nieces and other relatives request the caring readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will follow at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Chapel on July 14, 2002.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
214 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
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SHOWS

Calvin sings at Country Waffles

A COMBINATION of Broadway and pop is the main staple of Calvin Millado's repertoire when he headlines a series of Friday night shows at Country Waffles at Rockwell.

Calvin has previously performed before audiences in the different branches of Country Waffles.

Included in his repertoire are songs like "Someone To Watch Over Me," "Fly Me To the Moon," "Stardust," "The Way You Look Tonight," "This is the Moment," "What Matters Most," "Aubrey," "You," "Sometime, Somewhere," "Superman" and "I'll Always Stay in Love This Way," among others.

Calvin started as a theater actor at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and has appeared in a number of productions including "Noli Me Tangere," "El Filibusterismo" and "Ang Bunganga ng Pating."

Outside of the CCP, he has appeared in a number of independent theater productions including "Alikabok," "Rent," "Chess" and "Jesus Christ Superstar."

South Border in concert

IN A SPAN of six years capped with four albums, three major concerts and a well-deserved recognition from the prestigious Katha and Awit Awards, South Border truly got what it takes to stay on top.

The band, whose members mostly came from Davao, is composed of lead songwriter, vocalist and keyboardist Jay Durias, with Luke Mejares (vocals), Tata Balane (bass), Butch Victoriano (guitar), Ric Junasa (saxophone) and Paul Benitez (drums).

The band has earned the distinctions of creating pop/R&B sound infused with OPM flavor in their original compositions like "Losin' My Mind" and "Love of My Life."

When "Kahit Kailan" hit the airwaves, it was a blast of fresh air to the record industry. The band continues to get extensive airplay with "Habang Atin ang Gabi" and their latest single, "All I Want is You Today."

On July 13, experience a soulful night with South Border as the band performs at Onstage in Greenbelt, Makati City. Show starts 9 p.m.

The show is a production of Maxi-Media International and is presented by Rexona, with Centrum, Athena and Farlin Baby Care Production.

Tickets at P500 and P300 are now available at all Ticketworld outlets in major National Bookstore outlets (891-5610), Tower Records Makati and Alabang and Maxi-Media office (551-7777 or 551-8999).

Sabor Latino in Davao

THE VENUE presents Sabor Latino, the country's top Latin band, tonight and tomorrow (July 13) in Davao's one-stop entertainment hub.

Expect a show full of dance and energy as the eight members of the band play samba, salsa, mambo and bossa nova.

The concert is sponsored by La Parranda, Cebu Pacific and Lipton Iced Tea. Tickets are available at The Venue or text 0919-4605564 or call (082) 2263683.

SILKEN STEEL: FROM EDGY TO ELECTRIC
At a time when so many bands sound the same, it's refreshing to find one like Silken Steel. Even with just three members who all do vocals and play the guitar, Silken Steel can take a crowd at Hobbit House (Wednesdays and Fridays) from edgy to electric, erotic to tender and introspective, and back again, exquisitely blending words and music with a passion and honesty that endows the covers they sing with an almost spiritual quality. The trio is composed of (from left) Tess Carandang on acoustic rhythm guitar and vocals, Jet Romero on bass guitar and vocals, and Bik Nicolas on acoustic lead guitar and vocals.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	FOREVERMORE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MINORITY REPORT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	HIGH CRIMES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	BIG FAT LIAR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BAD COMPANY
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SUGAT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SANA TOTOO NA / SENSES
ODEON	HIGH CRIMES
ODEON-2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / BATAS NG LANSANGAN
ROBEN	SUGAT
TANDEM-1	MAMASAN
TANDEM-2	MONSTER'S BALL
TIMES	SHOWTIME / JASON-X
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
REMAR	SUGAT
REMAR-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SUGAT
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HIGH CRIMES
CINEMA-2	POWERPUFF GIRLS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SUGAT
CINEMA-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
CINEMA-3	JUST VISITING
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BAD COMPANY
CINEMA-6	SLACKERS
CINEMA-7	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
CINEMA-8	TAMPISAW
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BIG FAT LIAR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HIGH CRIMES
CINEMA-12	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
CINEMA-14	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-15	FOREVERMORE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BAD COMPANY
CINEMA-2	POWERPUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-3	BIG FAT LIAR
CINEMA-4	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-5	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN / HIGH CRIMES
CINEMA-6	HIGH CRIMES
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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BAD COMPANY - P 13 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	POWERPUFF GIRLS - P 13 12:55, 2:40, 4:25, 6:10, 7:55, 9:40	BIG FAT LIAR - P 13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
MINORITY REPORT - P13 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN - R 18 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 6:45, 8:50 HIGH CRIMES - P 13 10:50	HIGH CRIMES - P 13 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10

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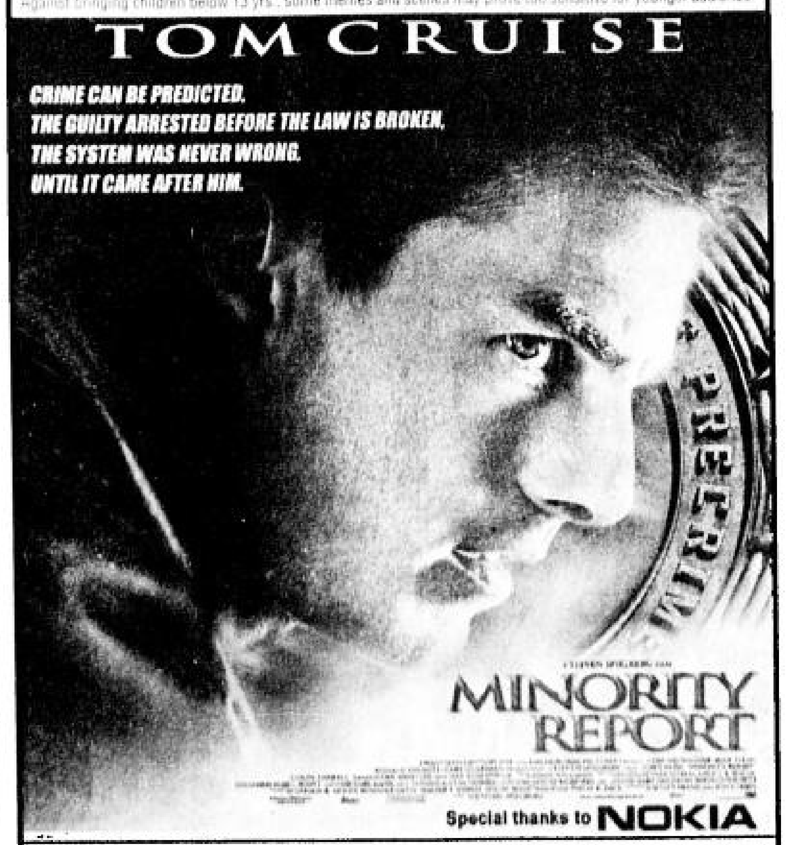
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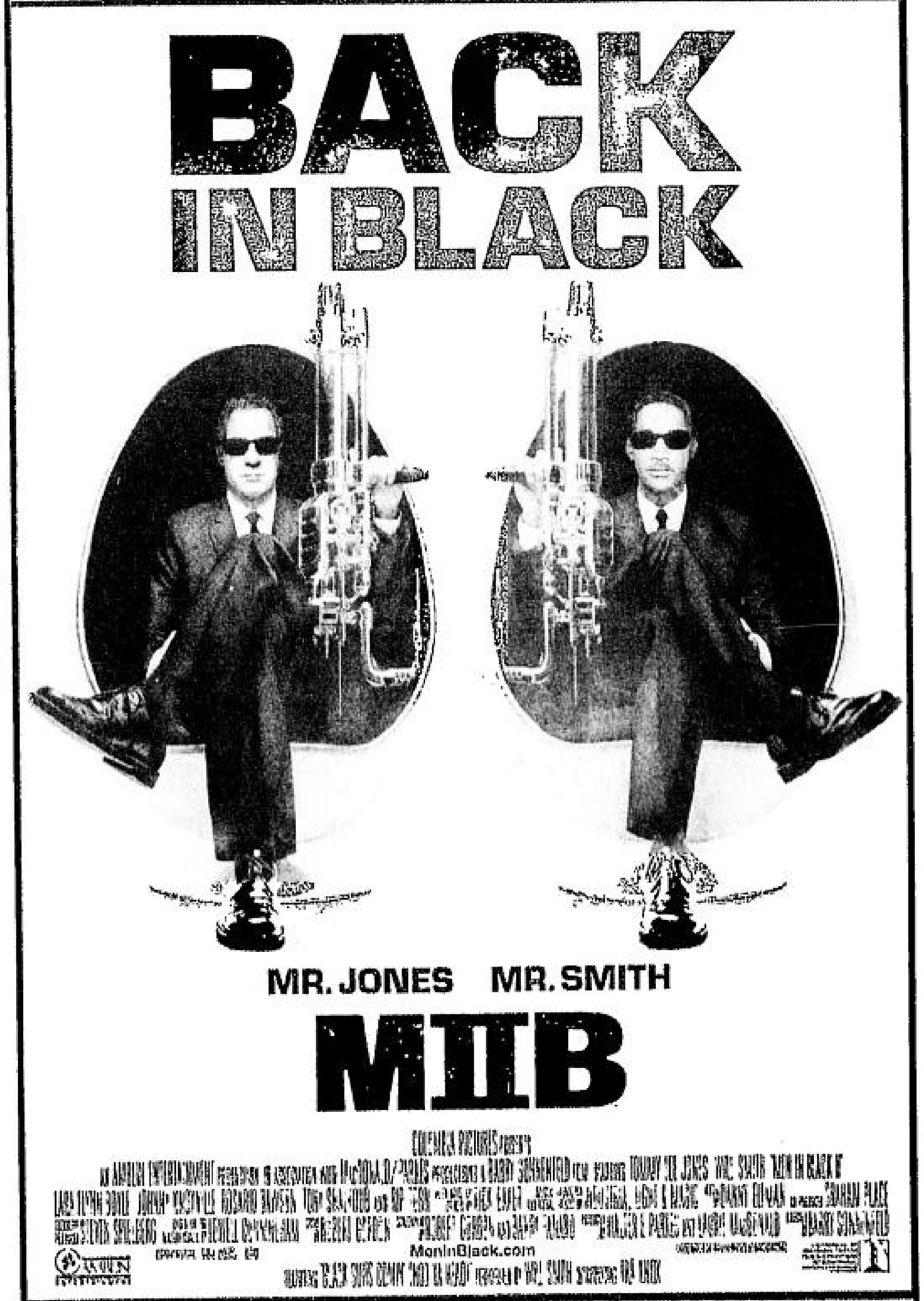

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FOCUS ON TAX COLLECTING AGENCIES

DoF team to probe corrupt practices

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is urging Malacañang to issue an executive order allowing the department to create an internal affairs team that will probe shady practices in its attached agencies, particularly the Bureaus of Internal Revenue and Customs.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he had already discussed the formation of the team with President Macapagal-Arroyo who, he said, was supportive of the plan and was willing to issue the necessary EO.

Camacho said the team would be a small unit of about 10 people to be headed by one of the undersecretaries or assistant secretaries of the finance department.

The finance chief said he would be involved in the formation of the internal affairs group. Camacho said he wanted to recruit lawyers from the country's top law firms to join the team.

Despite the government's huge deficit, Camacho said he could find a budget to finance the team as he stressed that the creation of the unit would involve a "small amount."

He said the team would be involved in the investigation of graft and corruption cases particularly those involving the BoC and BIR.

Camacho said he was also planning to convene a board of advisers from the private sector that would provide guidance to the internal affairs team and monitor its activities.

"We are looking for people who mean to help the government as a form of public service. We want lawyers to be part of the unit and business leaders to join the board of advisers," said the finance chief.

The BIR has started implementing serious measures to address corruption in its offices by firing nine personnel last year and recommending the dismissal of 33 others this year for alleged corrupt practices.

"Reforming the BIR is integral to the process of promoting good governance and enhancing the business and investment environment in the Philippines as we seek to meet out budgetary targets this year," said Camacho in an earlier interview.

Camacho said reforming the BIR, which contributes 80 percent of the government's revenue collections, was always a priority of the Macapagal administration.

CAMACHO

Bourse expects PNOC-EC to list this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is expecting PNOC Exploration Corp., a member of the multibillion-dollar Malampaya natural gas consortium, to offer its shares to the public within this year.

In a press briefing after the PSE board meeting late Wednesday, PSE chair Vivian Yuchengco said she had talked to major oil industry players and was convinced that PNOC-EC would brave the market this year.

She said the PSE was likewise encouraging major oil players Pilipinas Shell, Shell Philippines Exploration BV (Spex), and Caltex Philippines to tap the local bourse.

"We hope that they will list and I'm sure their shares will be attractive to investors and help the stock market," Yuchengco said.

PNOC-EC has been listed on the exchange since 1977 but has never sold shares to the public. At present, state-owned Philippine National Oil Co. controls 99.76 percent of PNOC-EC shares while the remaining shares are held by the following: Vicente Dychiao (0.01 percent); Santiago Sio Soy Une (0.01 percent); Guillermo Dychiao and Delfin Go.

In the past, companies are allowed to list shares on the stock exchange without offering shares to the public. But such companies like PNOC-EC are not traded since there is no public float.

Among PNOC-EC's projects are: the San Antonio gas field in Cagayan Valley and offshore oil exploration in Cotabato Basin, Maiquin, Ragay Gulf and Babuyan Channel. It has natural gas projects in southern Luzon and the National Capital Region.

DoE planning to impose fines on Caltex, Shell

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is considering imposing fines on two local oil refineries for their failure to comply with the compulsory public listing provision of the downstream oil industry deregulation law.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said yesterday that the fine could be applied every month after the deadline for listing.

Passed in 1998, the oil deregulation law gave existing oil firms three years to list in the stock market. Back then, there were only three oil firms in the country such as Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Caltex Philippines and Petron Corp. Of the three, only Petron has listed in the exchange.

But before the three-year period lapsed in February 2001, the Department of Justice ruled that the deadline was "only directory and not executory."

The justice department gave Shell and Caltex an indefinite extension, saying the initial public offerings could be done when the firms were financially ready and when market conditions could ensure the success of the initial public offerings.

"There is no deadline yet but as I've already said, we feel that this year is a good time to go public," Perez said in an interview.

The official explained that the planned penalties would be similar to those imposed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on commercial banks that have yet to go public.

Pilipinas Shell deferred its comments, saying it has yet to receive a formal notice from the energy department on the proposed penalties.

Roberto Kanapi, external affairs general manager of Shell, said that the firm was continually complying with the government's requirements, including the submission of quarterly reports on its financial status.

"Our reports contain information that would assist the DoE in reviewing whether or not Shell is ready for an IPO."

Caltex Philippines chief Timothy Leveille said last month that the firm was still studying and preparing for its public listing.

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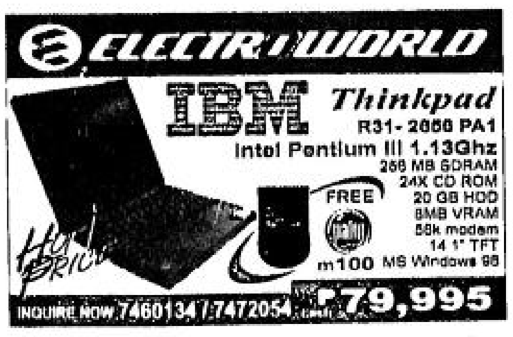

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Selling more than just dishwashing liquid

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

CAMPAIGNS & Grey chair Yoly V. Ong is back and has donned a new hat.

She returns as chair of the advertising agency and at the same time assumes the post of executive creative director after his creative man, Butch Uy, passed away.

Ong comes back after a one-year stint at the Kennedy School of Government in Harvard and she says she is raring to put into practice what she has learned.

Ong is sporting a new hairdo and has shed a few pounds. She says she lost weight because she only got a grant, thus, was not able to get a living allowance. A colleague, however, points out that she lost weight because she does not know how to cook.

She, however, gained in the form of increased optimism over the fate of the Philippines.

"We are so much better off than many countries. If Argentina can have hope for their country, we can too," she says referring to the Latin American country whose government has imposed a freeze on bank withdrawals to prevent a total collapse of the economy.

Ong was an Edward S. Mason Fellow (a fellowship for developing countries) in a Mid-Career Masters of Public Administration degree at the KSG. The Kennedy School is the good governance arm of Harvard.

Ong, as expected, did well in her studies and so did the three other Filipinos who were in the Edward Mason program.

YOLY Ong and her Harvard certificates.

Ong says Cecilio Adorna, a Filipino working with Unicef in the United States, and human rights lawyer Carlos P. Medina, were among the 10 awardees in the Edward Mason fellowship which had 65 representatives from developing countries.

The award was for academic excellence and show of leadership and service.

And then out of the 210 students that took up the Masters in Public Administration, 12 were given the Littauer award, including her and Cecilio.

That all three Filipinos received awards is a major achievement, Ong says, and only shows how good Filipinos really are.

"We had a tacit agreement that we will only open our mouths when we had something to say," she says.

The silent pact work and when the three spoke, the others listened.

Ong focused on two areas of methodological areas of concentration—leadership and political advocacy—although she actually qualified for four.

She says that political advocacy entails campaigns, election strategy and communication prompting some people to speculate that she is running for public office. In fact some have asked her to.

But Ong says "No, thank you." She has a bigger ambition—help solve the poverty problem in the country in 10 years.

Ong believes the answer to poverty is "organize, organize and organize."

She believes that if the poor realize the power they have, they will be able to choose better governance.

"They don't realize they have the power, not the politicians," she says.

Once the poor realize they have the power to choose and put the right person there, they will have the kind of governance they need.

What is happening, she says, is that the politicians are perceived to have the upper hand so when they win they opt for the status quo instead of making changes to improve the people's lives.

She says the key to the success of groups like the El Shaddai Catholic charismatic group is the promise they bring—of a better life, of a brighter future.

In fighting poverty, there is a need to attract it from the grass roots to the tap root.

The poor would be the grass root and the politicians the tap root. The politicians have to learn to be better leaders.

"There should be an academic renewal course for politicians and a renewal of their public service vows," she says.

She adds that the programs for the poor usually have hidden agendas. It should plainly be empowering.

The highest form of leadership is transactional—a leader believing in a vision, making others believe in it and not expecting any rewards.

"A leader should never lose the perspective of being part of the common *tao*," she adds.

Advocacy is Ong's passion. She started it with Capri, an advocacy group of Campaigns, which she chairs.

It was this group that earned her the ire of some politicians during the last senatorial elections when they were tasked to draw up campaigns which showed certain candidates and posing the question, "Iboboto n'yo ba sila?"

But the campaigns hit the emotions of many at that time. It was one of the rare times that advocacy hit the election trail.

Unfortunately some of these politicians still won—Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson.

To Ong, advocacy is "sexy;" it is something that can sell.

She reminds people that the song "Anak ng Pasig" was a very popular song that was actually an advocacy song to save the environment.

She admits many businessmen do not buy advocacy yet but it is a thriving proposition abroad. Ultimately, this is what the Filipinos need—to be pushed into common beliefs that will propel the country from a near basket case to a thriving economy.

So as Ong works out campaigns to sell dish soap or baby diapers, she will at the same time sell poverty reduction programs and good governance.

Campaigns and Grey is behind such successful advertising campaigns for Joy dishwashing liquid and Del Monte.

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Lee Pipes
UNDERGROUND

LEE Denim USA uses this MB Smart Car to promote its newest apparel line, Lee Pipes, which caters to hip and athletic teens that are into extreme games.

Jeans firm zooms its way to pockets of the young

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MARKETING STRATEGY

THE YELLOW Mercedes whizzes around the city's top shopping areas and party places, and it never fails to get people to give it a second look. Who wouldn't notice it when the Mercedes is a small two-door model, is painted a sunny yellow with a large Lee Pipes logo painted on the sides?

Wilfred T. Siy, president of Authentic American Apparel Inc. which distributes Lee products in the Philippines, says in an interview that the Lee Pipes car is just one of the marketing gimmicks that the group has cooked up to appeal to its target market.

Lee identified its target market as consumers in the A to C markets from 14 to 25 years old. Its sub-brand Lee Pipes was developed to appeal to 10- to 18-year-old children with the fashion look inspired by extreme sports.

Because they are young, Siy says this market always look for the latest styles and they want to keep up with the latest trends, so Lee must always be a step ahead of the crowd.

In Lee's dictionary, young refers to those who are beginning to be independent, have their own identities and peer groups, at the forefront of fashion. He is not weird and neither is he cutting edge. Just ahead of most and wants a real urban American product that exudes sexiness.

"Our campaign revolves around the line Fit in. Stand out. It puts into four words what Lee wants to look and to be to its market. It has worked well for us especially now when everybody wants to be different from the others, but at the same time want to be with the crowd," he says.

He describes the Lee jeans look as "edgy" and "rebel" jeans. The designs, Siy says, are the type that the late icon James Dean or rock artists would likely wear.

"We want to give a new twist to jeans but we still offer basic looks like low waist, straight cut or boot cut. We keep a track of trends by investing in research. Our people go around the world like the United States, Europe and Japan to look at the latest trends," Siy says.

Lee also seriously considers feedback from its customers to be able to give the market what it wants. The research for instance showed that some buyers still want the basic

JEANS/ C4

How to protest assessments of the Bureau of Customs

By Jonald R. Vergara
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

THE SHIFT in the method of valuation of imported goods from Home Consumption Value to Transaction Value starting Jan. 1, 2000 resulted in a number of valuation issues in the Bureau of Customs (BoC).

Since the effectivity of Republic Act No. 8181, as amended by RA No. 7135, many importers of goods or articles have contested the valuation made by the BoC.

The conflict commonly stems from disagreements over what constitutes transaction value or the price actually paid or payable of goods sold for export to the Philippines.

To provide a clear and transparent procedure for the resolution of protests arising from valuation and classification issues of imported goods, the BoC has issued Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 3-2002 dated Jan. 2, 2002 amending the provisions of CMO No. 27-99.

Outlined and discussed below is the process to guide importers in resolving protest cases arising from valuation and classification issues as provided under CMO No. 3-2002.

- **Formal protest filed with the Customs collector.** Upon the final determination of the customs value and/or tariff classification of the imported article by the Valuation and Classification Review Committee (VCRC), the importer who is not satisfied with the decision may file a formal protest disputing the assessment with the office of the Collector of Customs ("Collector") through the Law Division of the port concerned or its equivalent unit.

The formal protest must be filed within 15 days either from the time payment is made or upon receipt of the notice of the decision of the VCRC, as the case may be, by the importer.

The importer shall state in his formal protest the reasons or legal basis, and shall pay the corresponding docket fee. Otherwise, the importer's protest will be deemed as not having been filed, and the BoC valuation will become final.

After receipt of the formal protest, the collector shall form a panel of experts to hear the case. The panel is authorized to issue the necessary notice of hearings, subpoenas and other interlocutory orders. The panel shall hear all parties to the case and likewise receive all evidence from them.

Within 30 days from the first hearing, the panel shall terminate the proceedings and recommend a decision to the Customs collector through the chief of the Law Division. If the protest cannot be resolved within 30 days, the panel shall request the collector of Customs for a maximum of 30 days additional time to resolve the case.

The collector of Customs shall render a final decision on the protest within 15 days from receipt of the recommended decision and shall notify the importer in writing of any decision.

If the collector of Customs' decision is unfavorable to the government, the decision together with the entire records of the case shall be automatically elevated to the commissioner of Customs for automatic review within five days from the promulgation.

On the other hand, if the importer is not satisfied with the collector's decision, he may, within 15 days after notification in writing by the collector of his action or decision, file a notice of appeal with the collector with a copy furnished to the commissioner of Customs.

- **Automatic review or appeal to the commissioner of Customs.** For an importer's appeal to the commissioner of Customs to be perfected, the following requisites must be satisfied:

1. Filing of the Notice of Appeal;
2. Payment of appeal docket fee in accordance with the prescribed rates;
3. At the option of the importer-appellant, filing of a memorandum of appeal within 15 days from receipt from the notice of the decision.

The appeal, regular or an automatic review, shall be deliberated on by a permanent board of three members to be created by the commissioner of Customs. The board shall recommend a decision to the commissioner and the commissioner shall render a decision within 30 days from receipt of the records of the case from the collector and shall notify the appellant or aggrieved party in writing.

If no decision is made within 30 days from receipt of the record of the case by the commissioner, it shall be deemed that the commissioner upheld the collector's decision. If the decision is adverse to the government, the case shall likewise be elevated to the secretary of finance for automatic review. However, if the commissioner decides in favor of the government and no appeal is perfected within the reglementary period with the Court of Tax appeals, the decision of the commissioner shall become final and executory.

- **Automatic Review by the secretary of finance.** If the Commissioner renders a decision against the government, the records of the proceedings shall be forwarded to the secretary of finance within five days from the promulgation of the decision for automatic review.

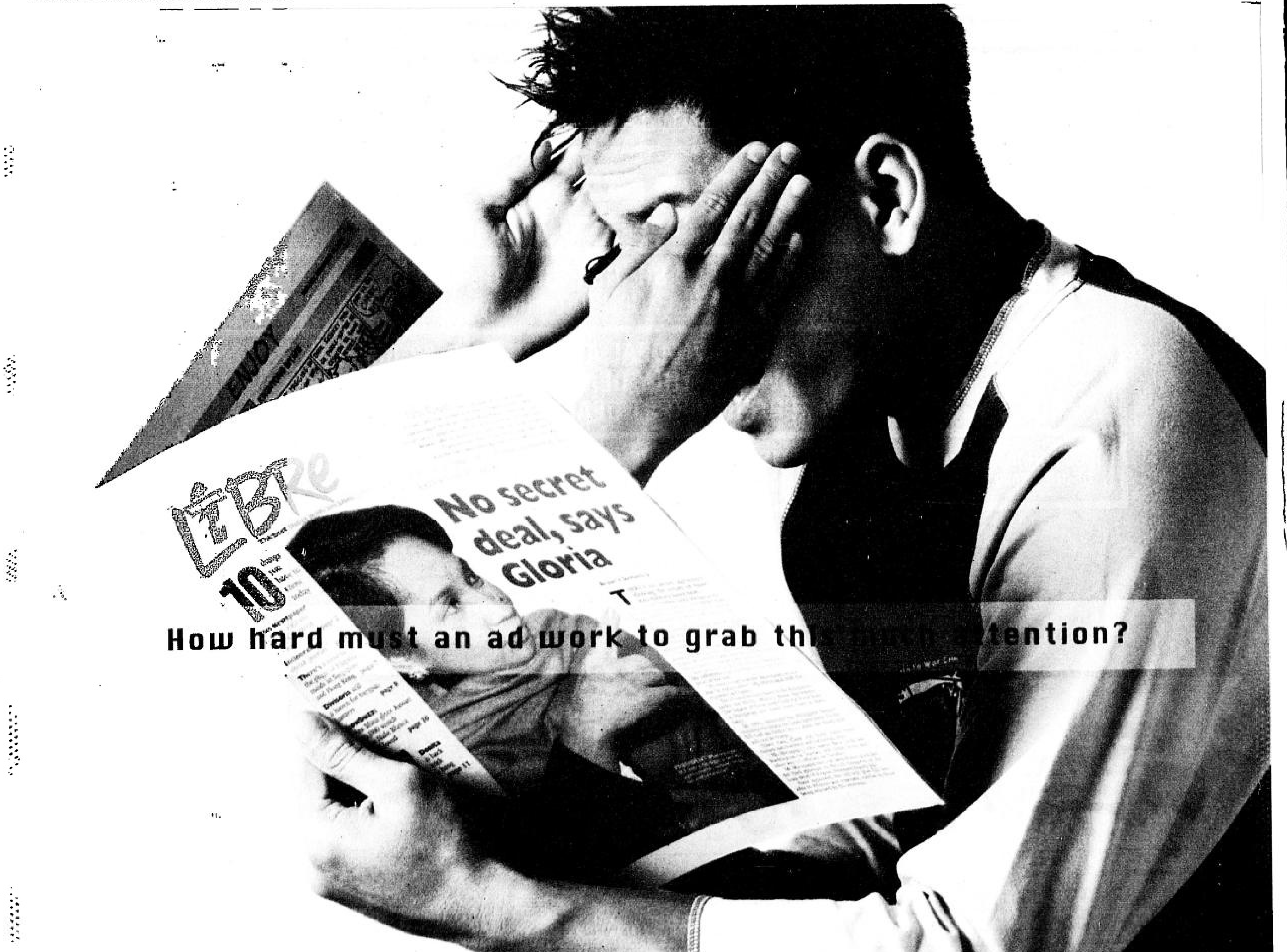
If no decision is rendered by the secretary of finance within 30 days from receipt of the record of the case, the decision under review shall be final and executory. In other words, any inaction on the part of the secretary of finance will be considered as a concurrence of the decision under review.

The decision of the secretary of finance shall be final and executory if no appeal is perfected within the period provided.

Under CMO No. 3-2002, it is important to note that a decision can only be appealed or elevated to the secretary of finance for automatic review if the commissioner of Customs renders a decision in favor of the importer and against the government.

Therefore, if the commissioner of Customs decides against the importer, the importer must file an appeal not with the secretary of finance

TAX/ C3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'White gold' of Calasiao brings riches to townsfolk

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

WORKERS remove the cooked 'puto' from the steamer.

PUTO stalls in Calasiao, Pangasinan, attract tourists.

PHOTOS BY RAY ZAMBRANO

CALASIAO, Pangasinan—Fronting the town plaza is a line of stalls selling something that looks like miniature hills of glittery white or gold from a distance.

Here, motorists are most often tempted to stop, look and buy several bags of these glittering white *merienda* fare—snow white *puto* (rice cake) and the *kutsinta* or yellow *puto*.

Puto, made of rice and sugar, is a product of Barangays Dinalaoan, Lumbang and Ambuetel of this central Pangasinan town.

Day and night, villagers churn out thousands of pieces of the delicacy, which are either sold at the *puto* stalls in the town or taken to other places, many times finding their way to classy restaurants.

While spurring the economy in the villages, *puto*-making is still a family, or neighborhood affair. The "factories" are the front or back yards, with family members doing their production share—from washing the rice to steaming to packing the *puto*.

Biggest 'puto'-maker

One of the biggest *puto*-makers in this town is the family of Rufina Decena, 66. When she married Domingo Decena in 1961, she had no skill but she needed to help her husband—a farmer—earn their keep.

It was good that Rufina's mother-in-law, the late Catalina Decena, was already making *puto*, although not on a commercial scale.

"She cooked only 2 kilograms of rice daily which she would bring to other barangays to sell," Rufina recalls.

From her mother-in-law, she learned not only the art of making *puto*, but also the fact that the home business she started was on a limited scale.

The workers used manual stone grinders to grind the rice to a pulp and cook the mixture in mini Chinaware cups arranged in steaming pans designed from bamboo.

Rufina either ground the rice (the manual grinder could grind 2 kilograms of rice in 30 minutes) or paid a worker to do it for 30 cents.

For every kilo of rice, a kilo of sugar was added, producing 300 pieces of bite-sized *puto*. Those days, 100 pieces of *puto* cost 80 centavos.

"It was not considered a business enterprise then," Rufina adds.

From 2 kgs a day, her market soon grew as orders came from market-goers especially on Sundays and Thursdays.

But the income was still not enough. Her husband continued to till the ricefield and do odd jobs on the side to make ends meet. Their children Erlinda, Wilfredo, Helen and Bernardo helped their parents in the *puto* business whenever they were off from school.

"Somehow, we got by, even able to send the four children to college," Rufina proudly says.

Dominant industry

Fast forward to 2002: *Puto*-making is still a dominant industry in the three villages. Not much has changed, except the use of mechanized grinding machine and stainless steel steaming wares.

A bag containing 100 pieces now cost ₱35-P40.

The Decena children are all married and successful, and the mother still makes *puto*, consuming sacks of rice and sugar daily.

Rufina says that since the late 1980s, she has been marketing only in Metro Manila, supplying several businessmen. She has several workers, too—one set for the day and another for the night.

For those interested to make *puto*, she shares her recipe: The ingredients are rice (preferably R-64) and sugar.

First, the rice is thoroughly washed, soaked for an hour and pulverized. After fermenting the consistency for three hours in earthen jars, sugar is added and mixed thoroughly until a smooth texture is achieved. Then the blend is poured into the tiny cups arranged in a big pan over fire. The pan is covered and the steaming goes for 30 minutes.

"You must wait until the *puto* has cooled down before you pack them," Rufina said. Hot *puto* is sticky, unmanageable and may turn sour when packed.

One "secret" the *puto*-makers willingly share is their use of earthen jars in production. Aside from fermenting the rice and sugar mixture, the jars give it the distinctive flavor which *puto*-makers from other places cannot imitate.

Rufina recalls how some residents, who missed the delicacy, brought earthen jars to the United States for *puto*-making.

"They were puzzled why they could not achieve what we were doing here, until I explained to them that the jars have to be used daily," she adds.

Some families, like the Decenas, use banana leaves, instead of plastic bags, for packing. The banana leaves help the *puto* stay fresh longer.

How to protest Bureau of Customs assessments

From page C2

but with the Court of Tax Appeals within 30 days from receipt of the decision.

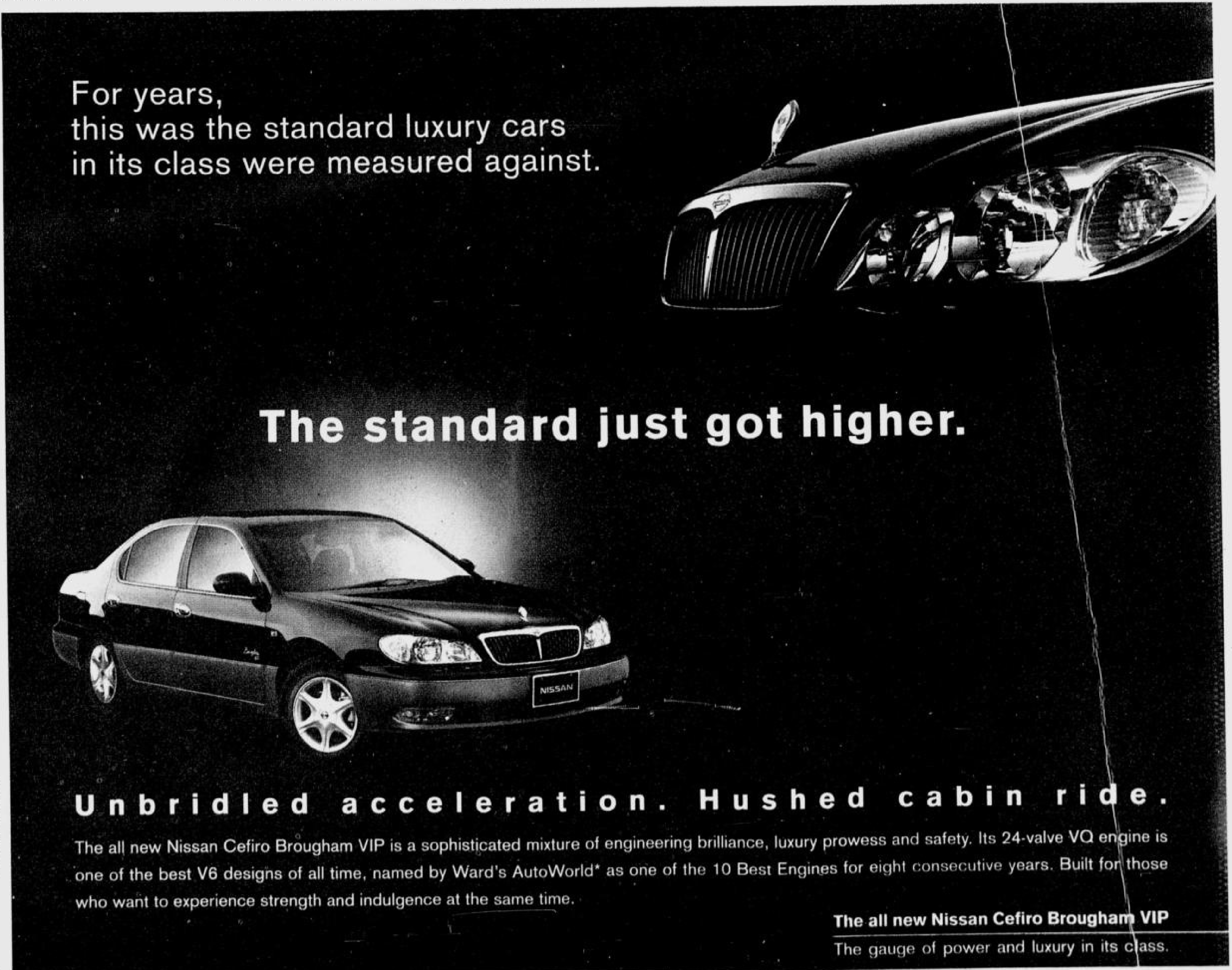
- **Appeal to the Court of Tax Appeals, Court of Appeals and Supreme Court.** If the importer is not satisfied by the decision of the commissioner of Customs or the secretary of finance, as the case may be, he may file a petition for review with the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA), within 30 days from receipt of the notice of decision.

The CTA, like a regular court, shall then try the case and admit evidence to resolve the issues raised by the parties.

If the importer is still not satisfied with the decision of the CTA, he may then file an appeal with the Court of Appeals (CA) within 15 days from receipt of the decision of the CTA.

Finally, the decision of the CA may be appealed by the importer to the Supreme Court within 15 days from receipt of decision.

(The International Trade & Customs Service Group of SGV & Co. is sponsoring a seminar entitled "The Philippines' Adherence to Global Import Valuation Rules" to be held on July 18, 2002 at the Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Interested parties may contact Cora del Mundo or Rizza Villegas at 891-0307 locals 8253 or 8821.)



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RC Makati's 37th Induction Night

Friday, 12 July 2002

Sow the Seeds of Love

Robert Kuan leads new set of RC Makati officers to be inducted tonight

THE ROTARY Club of Makati will hold its 37th induction rites tonight during a formal dinner at the ballroom of the Hotel Inter-Continental in Makati City.

Leading the new set of officers and directors is Robert F. Kuan, well-regarded entrepreneur who founded Chowking Food Corp. in 1985 and parlayed it into the country's No.1 Chinese quick service restaurant chain. He is currently board chair of St. Luke's Medical Center and of his own company, Creative Dining Inc., operator of Hot Café, Kingfisher Seafood Restaurant at the Rockwell Center, and Good View Seafood Restaurant in Ermita. Kuan earned a business administration degree from the University of the Philippines-Diliman and an MBA from the Asian Institute of Management. He is the recipient of a number of awards, among them the Agora Award for Most Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship in 1996, Business Achiever of the Decade in 1996 from the Philippine Star, and the University of the Philippines Alumni Association's Most Outstanding Professional Award in the Field of Business Administration in 1999.

Tonight's program features the recognition of 22 Paul Harris Fellows, induction of five new members, and the signing of matched club agreements with the Rotary Club of Shanghai, Rotary Club of Baguio North, Rotary Club of Lucena South, Rotary Club of Laoag and Rotary Club of Boracay.

The other board members to be sworn in are: Ramon "Mon" Diokno, vice president and director of Club Service-Membership, Segismundo "Mundy" Gonzalez, secretary and director of District Affairs, Renato "Rene" Galve, treasurer, Reginald "Reggie" Nolido, legal counsel, PE Rene Benitez, director of International Service-Interclub Relations; Victor "Vic" Caparas, director of Community Service-Health; IPP Juan "Jonny" Carlos, director of Vocational Service-Educational Programs, Danilo "Danny" Ignacio, director of International Service-The Rotary Foundation, Conrado "Conrad" Marty, director of Club Service-Programs & Information, Jorge "Ole" Naval, director of Youth Service, Federico "Ferdie" Ordoveza, director of Vocational Service-Livelihood Programs, Rolando "Rolly" Roque, director of Community Service-Community Development, and Jesus "Sonny" Tambunting, director of Club Service-Fellowship & Sports.

Seven past presidents have been tapped to lend counsel as members of the Council of Advisers: PP Juan Carlos "Carlos" del Rosario, PP Isidro "Sid" Garcia, PP Ricardo "Ric" Librea, PP Renato "Rene" Paras, PP J. Antonio "Tony" Quila, PP Carlos "Charlie" Rufino and PP Jesus "Gigi" Zulueta.

The inducting officer is Carlos "Charlie" Yap, a past president of the Rotary Club of Raha Sulayman and father-in-law of Kuan. Yap is chair and president of Richfield International Inc., importer and distributor of lighting supplies.

A COOKING demo for residents of Tejeros tenement in Makati, one of many livelihood projects of the club

Rotary Club of Makati brief history and profile

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超
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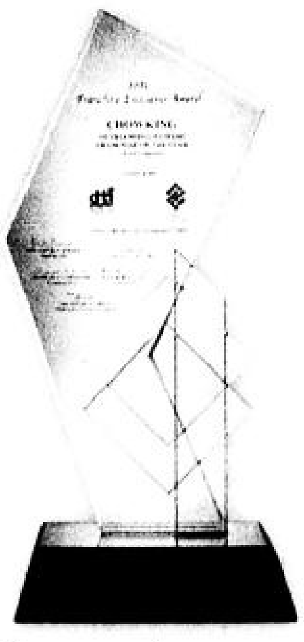
chow•king: *adj.* 1. outstanding.
2. above the rest.



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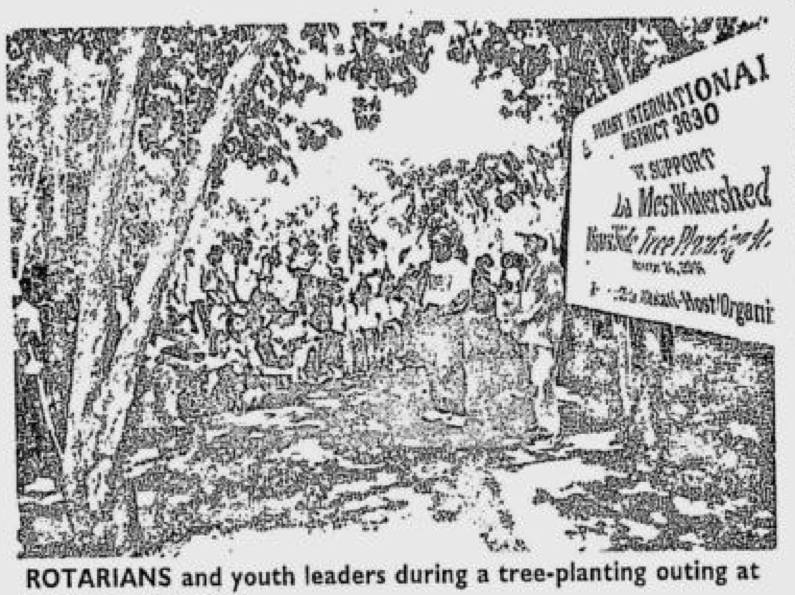
Major continuing projects

FREE monthly surgical missions for indigent patients at the Philippine General Hospital

- Partnership in Service Program. Under thė PSP, the club grants matching funds of up to P50,000 to qualified projects of other Rotary Clubs using an annual allocation of P1 million provided by the Makati Rotary Club Foundation Inc. Some 37 clubs have benefited from the project since its inception in RY 1999-2000.
- Books Across the Seas Project. Started in 1988, this project sources books from the US-based Brother's Brother Foundation for distribution to institutional recipients in the Philippines. To date it has given away nearly 10 million books to over 41,000 schools and libraries throughout the country.
- Medical Missions. For the past 12 years, free monthly surgical missions have been held at the Philippine General Hospital to accommodate indigent patients suffering from hernia, hemorrhoids, breast cancer and meningocoele.
- Save an Eye Project. This project offers free consultation for eye patients and free surgery for indigent cataract and glaucoma patients at the club's fully-equipped mobile eye clinic.
- Heather Kinross Center for Skills Training & Entrepreneurial Development. The center offers free computer and deco arts training to qualified high school graduates and college dropouts. Computer trainees are deployed to "catcher" companies for on-the-job training and are offered job placement assistance upon graduation.
- La Mesa Reforestation. In a tie-up arrangement with ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Kalikasan Foundation, the club is committed to plant 45,000 trees on 80 hectares of the denuded La Mesa watershed over a 3-year period, from 2000-2003.
- Project Angels. School-based Angels Clubs are organized to enlist the involvement of high school students in a slew of environment projects. So far, 25 clubs have been formed. Starting out as a project exclusive to RC Makati, Project Angels was expanded to a district project last year. It was honored by Rotary International with the Significant Achievement Award in District 3830 for RY 2001-2002.
- Teacher Training Project. In partnership with the Department of Education, the project provides intensive, masteral-level training to public school teachers of Science, Math and English to enhance the quality of instruction in public schools.
- Pampanga Water Supply Project. Funded by a $190,000 3H grant, the project entails the building of a water supply facility to bring piped water to the houses of 300 families residing in Barangays Panipuan, Molino and Balite in San Fernando, Pampanga. The project is expected to be completed and turned over to the beneficiary communities in October this year.
- Christmas Bazaar. A long-running annual fund-raising event run by the Rotary Anns, the bazaar has raised several millions for the club's humanitarian projects and the Anns' pet charities. Since 1998, the bazaar has featured The Last Angel Project under which shoppers are invited to buy presents for children from poor sections of Makati. The gifts are personally delivered by the Anns to the doorsteps of the recipient-children before Christmas day.
- Christmas Package Drive. This is a yearly gift-giving program for residents of selected communities in Makati, most notably Tejeros Tenement, the club's adopted community.



ROTARIANS and youth leaders during a tree-planting outing at La Mesa watershed

LA TRINIDAD CENTRAL SCHOOL

YOUNG schoolchildren in Benguet queue up for books given by RC Makati's Books Across the Seas Project

Past Presidents

RY 1966-1967	Armando "Mando" Picciotto
RY 1967-1968	Jose Luis "Louie" Faustino
RY 1968-1969	Roger "Roger" Davis
RY 1969-1970	Farid "Fred" Nass
RY 1970-1971	Ford "Ford" Tussing
RY 1971-1972	Luis Ma. "Louie" Guerrero
RY 1972-1973	Rafael "Paing" Hechanova
RY 1973-1974	Juan "Puno" Peña
RY 1974-1975	Silvestre "Beteng" Punzalan
RY 1975-1976	Arthur "Art" Misner
RY 1976-1977	Roberto "Bert" Montinola
RY 1977-1978	Edgardo "Hadji" Kalaw
RY 1978-1979	William "Bill" Beck
RY 1979-1980	Efren "Efren" Sales
RY 1980-1981	Froilan "Froily" Aragon
RY 1981-1982	Ronald "Ronnie" Velayo
RY 1982-1983	Nicolas "Nick" Katigbak
RY 1983-1984	Giorgio "George" Bongulielmi
RY 1984-1985	Cesar "Cesar" Campos
RY 1985-1986	Leocadio "Cady" Dominguez
RY 1986-1987	Carlos "Charlie" Rufino
RY 1987-1988	Renato "Rene" Paras Alfredo "Fred" Parungao
RY 1988-1989	Jesus "Gigi" Zulueta, Jr.
RY 1989-1990	Reynaldo "Rey" Adriano
RY 1990-1991	Teodoro "Ted" Borlongan
RY 1991-1992	Fidel "Fidel" Alfonso
RY 1992-1993	Armand "Jun" Braun, Jr.
RY 1993-1994	Jose "Joe" Alejandro
RY 1994-1995	Juan Carlos "Carlos" del Rosario
RY 1995-1996	Evergisto "Ever" Macatulad
RY 1996-1997	Ricardo "Ric" Librea
RY 1997-1998	Isidro "Sid" Garcia
RY 1998-1999	J. Antonio "Tony" Quila
RY 1999-2000	Cristino "Tito" Panlilio
RY 2000-2001	Roland "Roland" Young
RY 2001-2002	Juan "Jonny" Carlos, Jr.

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People, Events & Products

MOA SIGNING

The United Print Media Group (UPMG) and Diwa Learning Systems Inc. sign the memorandum of agreement to launch a 'Read Campaign Project' for the United Print Media Group advocacy project on reading awareness. Present during the agreement signing were (from left) Pepito Olarte, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Elaine Go Mapa, Belgosa Publishing, Paciencia M. Pineda, Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp, Hazel Gaston, Business World, Alan Tumlos, Freeman, Jose Maria Policarpio, Diwa Learning Systems, Inc, Bess Zamora, Today, and Josie Tan Magtoto, Mr. & Ms. Publishing.

NISSAN CHIEF VISITS UMC

Carlos V. Ghosn (center), president and CEO of Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. is welcomed by Richard L. Lee (right), president of Universal Motors Corporation (UMC) and senior vice president for marketing Elizabeth H. Lee. UMC, which represents the Philippines in the Nissan global network, is being honored with the inaugural Executive Vice President Award for record sales performance. UMC, Nissan's authorized assembler and distributor of light commercial vehicles and SUVs in the Philippines, is the first and only Asian distributor to hold this distinction.

ANGELA VELEZ IN NESTLE BREAKFAST PROMO

TV personality Angela Velez recently helped distribute Mag-Nestle Almusal stickers to motorists in Metro Manila as part of Nestle's ongoing campaign to remind consumers about the importance of breakfast. The sticker promo, valid in Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite and alagtas, Bulacan, is giving away cash prizes of P10,000, P20,000 and P100,000 to lucky motorists spotted with a Mag-Nestle Almusal sticker on their vehicle. A total of P1 million will be given away during the promo, which ends July 31. For more details, visit the Nestle Breakfast Campaign website at www.nestle.com.ph/almusal.

Clips

ISDFI groundbreaking today

THE UERMMMC-Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation Inc. will hold its groundbreaking ceremony in Marikina City today, July 12. This will be the site where the institute's envisioned building will be erected. The program kicks off with a motorcade coming from different key points of Metro Manila and will converge at the site. A program will follow prepared by the UE-ISDFI Alumni Association's president, Dr. Leorino Sobrepena, the UERMMMC-ISDFI administration headed by Dr. Ricardo Fernando and Dr. Araceli Panelo, and with the full backing of the board of directors and the rest of the UE-ISDFI alumni. The ceremony will be culminated with fund-raising activities and tree planting. Pharmacia Philippines Inc., a top tier global pharmaceutical company, is one of the supporters of this endeavor.

Scientist-businessman mounts seminar

MULTI-AWARDED scientist and businessman Col. Gerry A. Dango will be sharing his vast and extensive knowledge in the fields of business and entrepreneurship as he mounts a business seminar dubbed "Starting and Managing a Small Business Successfully on July 13 at De La Salle Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. The seminar is a whole-day affair and will provide participants with a realistic approach in identifying, analyzing and exploiting business opportunities. Aside from Dango, the seminar will be facilitated by some of today's most respected and successful businessmen. For more information, call 722-9427, 721-2671 and 722-1606 (telefax) and look for Monina or Mary Ann.

Aikido principles in business

THE TOWER Club, the country's premier, by-invitation-only business and social club, will host a business forum for its members and their guests at the Taipan on Friday, July 12, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. The forum will introduce "Aikido Principles in Business" applicable to daily living at home and at work. Aikido is a martial art that has developed into a philosophy. In business, its essential principles have been successfully used in attaining one's constructive leadership power, ability towards fostering collaborative processes and conflict resolution. Guest speaker will be Dr. Mark Crapo, an Aikido master for 30 years and the chief instructor of the Aikido Institute of Michigan. Members of the Tower Club can call 885-7085, events and activities to register.

Introductory Centering Prayer Retreat

CONTEMPLATIVE Outreach Philippines is inviting the public to the Introductory Centering Prayer Retreat from July 12 to 14 at the St. Joseph Marello Retreat House in Tagaytay City. Centering Prayer is a prayer of interior silence and alert receptivity to the Divine Indwelling in the center of our being. Growth in prayer awakens the spiritual level of our consciousness, cultivating our will to constantly and repeatedly consent to God's presence and action as we become increasingly aware of them in our day-to-day living. This retreat gives a conceptual background for Centering Prayer, the method, the practice, and the fruits. The retreat is open to priests, the religious, and laity. For more information, call 871-8315, 842-0201, 843-8292. 843-8830 (Jazmine), or fax 871-2275. E-mail chickie@info.com.ph

Center boosts techies' chances of going abroad

By Abigail L. Ho

FILIPINOS are gaining popularity abroad for their flair with computers. Along with the Indians, the Filipinos are preferred by many high technology companies abroad because of their ability to keep abreast of the latest in technological developments.

One new review school in Manila was recently set up to make sure that Filipinos would continue their winning streak in the profession.

It recently got a boost when the Japanese Information Technology Standard Examinations of the Philippines (JITSE-Phil) accredited it in the hope of improving chances of Filipino IT workers of getting an internationally recognized certification.

The Information Technology Standards Review Center Inc. aims to "help raise local IT standards to international levels," Review Center chair Romeo Recto says in a presentation before reporters.

The establishment of the Review Center could improve the country's 6.1-percent passing rate in last year's first ever JITSE-Phil Certification Program examination.

Out of 721 examinees, only 44 passed the test and got certified.

"We have to increase the success rate of the examinees. The last exam had encouraging results. The Japanese themselves said the result was good enough," Department of Trade and Industry director Dita Maralit says.

She adds that the skills of local IT workers had to be in line with international standards and at par with the world's best IT practitioners.

"The JITSE-Phil exam serves as a benchmark for the IT job market in Japan as well as in other countries," she explains.

But Maralit says that having an internationally recognized exam was not enough for Filipino IT professionals to be truly competitive globally.

She stresses that IT education has to be improved, starting in the secondary level, even in the rural high schools.

More value also has to be placed on the country's IT workers.

"We must work on improving their value on the value chain. Our IT professionals have to be more than just encoders and call center operators," Maralit says.

To achieve these objectives, there had to be stronger industry-academe linkages, more teacher training programs and more incentives for IT graduates.

One of these incentives, Maralit says, could be the JITSE-Phil certification itself, which would help Filipinos break into the Japanese IT market.

Review Center president Nick Fontanilla adds that Japan needs over 50,000 IT workers.

JITSE-Phil vice president for operations Peter Que Jr. explains that the JITSE-Phil certification is recognized in Malaysia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Singapore, China and India.

He says over 80,000 IT workers in Japan take this exam to get promotions, salary increases and even more lucrative jobs.

The certification exam could even pave the way for a licensure exam for aspiring IT practitioners.

IT firm exports local expertise to Middle East, US, rest of Asia

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE STI Education Services Group is spreading the gospel of information and communication technology overseas with its plan to open up partly owned and affiliate sites in Asia, the Middle East and the United States.

STI president and CEO Chito Salazar is optimistic that it could parlay its nearly two decades of experience in ICT education to teaching computer basics and programming skills in other countries.

STI would also target overseas Filipino workers who want to upgrade their skills in computer during their off-hours. Salazar notes that most of the jobs available overseas already require some knowledge in computers, a demand which STI hopes to fill.

STI opened last month an education center in Bangladesh, a tieup with the Dhaka Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), which offers diploma courses in Advanced Computer and Electronics Technology and Business Systems Development and short courses for office and Web-based applications.

After Bangladesh, STI is currently negotiating with other parties to open up school sites in Pakistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Brunei, Vietnam and Saudi Arabia.

In the United States, Salazar says STI was keen on filling the demand for basic computer education from blue-collar workers and housewives who have to cope with the increasing presence of computers in everyday lives.

Salazar says STI has been getting strong interest from businessmen in these countries who believe that the Philippine model of ICT education could work in their countries. "The opportunities are big enough for us to really take a close look in these areas," Salazar explains.

STI assistant vice president for international operations Leah Olegario says STI would manage the curriculum, send some Filipino teachers abroad and train the staff.

Olegario adds that STI could either get a partner or franchisee in its overseas expansion depending on the potential of a country.

SALAZAR

Olegario says each school site would need between $30,000 and $50,000, and the number of school sites in each country would depend on the business potential of the country. For example, Salazar says Indonesia has a potential to have at least 300 STI sites or three times that of the Philippines.

While it broadens its market beyond the country's shores, Salazar says STI—which already has a school in all major cities and municipalities in the country—is moving toward beefing up the quality of its education.

With the entry of a new group of owners led by Eusebio H. Tanco (chair of First Philippine Insurance Co. Inc.) last year, STI repositioned itself as a multi-market, multi-product provider of ICT learning in the country.

Salazar says STI has been moving to improve what he admitted was the main weakness of ICT education in the country—the inability of schools to keep up with the fast pace of technology.

Salazar says STI has been mapping out long-term partnerships with other leading Philippine ICT schools (including its fierce rival; AMA) to synthesize the quality of ICT education and narrow the gap between the quality of the country's ICT graduates and the demand of the market.

STI has entered into partnership with Microsoft Philippines and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to achieve the country's goal of developing an ICT infrastructure, enhancing the policy and legislative environment, and create a pool of globally competitive ICT professionals.

Jeans firm . . .

From page C2

jeans such as the straight cut or boot cut jeans, while there are those that want the more fashionable jeans. To cater to both markets, the more edgy jeans are sold in Lee's nine stand-alone boutiques while the basic jeans are sold inside the malls through 150 outlets across the country.

The marketing campaign, he says, follows the strategy for the design of the jeans. It is something unique and edgy.

Aside from the Lee Pipes car, Lee also sponsors youth-oriented events such as MTV concerts and theme club parties where DJs are brought in to play the latest music to the crowd, the kind that purchase Lee jeans.

"We attach ourselves to brand events like these to stay close to our market," he says.

Authentic American Apparel adopted the marketing campaign since 1996 when it relaunched the Lee brand in the Philippines. It started with a market share of only 6.41 percent, which has since grown to 17 percent.

Lee Philippines has also emerged as the Lee group's biggest market in Asia after Japan.

It attributes the growth not only to the quality and design of the jeans but also to the campaign that has struck a chord with the young consumers, especially those that appreciate goods with a long American heritage.

Lee was founded in Kansas, in the United States in 1889 by Henry David Lee. Its first product was the overall which it produced in 1911. Since then it produced a number of firsts that has made it part of the history of denims.

In 1913, it was commissioned by the US army to do the official fatigue uniform during WWI. In 1924 it launched the first denim jeans designed specifically for cowboys and rodeo riders and in 1929 it introduced the first denim jacket with zip closure.

Siy says Lee in the Philippines rides on this American heritage to keep Lee ahead of the competition. He explains that there are many jeans brands that want to get a big slice of the Philippine market considering that Filipinos are big buyers of denims, both male and female for either tops like jackets or pants.

"Competition is stiff so we make it an effort to stay ahead in terms of design but at the same time keeping our prices reasonable," he says.

Lee projects that Filipinos these days are partial toward European designs where the cut is slim or closer to the body, as against American hip hop. There is also a trend toward the worn look and Beatlesque designs.

Transforming . . .

From page C8

True Value has even expanded into related services like key duplicating, computerized paint mixing and referrals to contractor services in construction and interior design, even a lifestyle learning center.

The learning center was set up to help customers understand the basics of home improvement, including interior design and using paint.

There are live demonstrations on remodeling and new techniques in gardening, painting or even a new craft.

Recto notes that people sometimes doubt their ability to fix their own homes, but that they get hooked once they are taught how to do it.

True Value provides this kind of a service, aside from selling the equipment. As its slogan goes, True Value provides "Anything to help . . ."

Gomez who was in the Philippines to visit the local operations, says the True Value Philippines is unique in the organization because of its interiors, size and scale.

While most of the True Value stores across the United States are small, neighborhood operations, he notes that True Value in the Philippines is impressive in size and scale.

The flagship True Value store in Rockwell Power Plant, for instance, covers 2,000 square meters and has areas for gardening and barbecue items.

"The look here could be a model for the rest of the region," Gomez told Business Friday in an interview.

True Value Philippines started operations in 1994 when it was granted a membership by TruServ. It is a joint venture between Amon Trading Corp. and International freeport Traders Inc.

True Value Philippines has stores in Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong, Park Square I in Makati, Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center in Cebu and its flagship store, the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center, Makati.

The joint venture was inspired to put up True value here because of the success of TruServe Corp. in the United States, the world's largest group of hardware and variety stores.

The Philippines is the first of only two members in Asia.

TruServ is a Fortune 500 company and the largest US hardware cooperative with over $4.5 billion in wholesale sales.

In 1997, TruServ merged with ServiStar Coast to Coast retailers to create a cooperative with over 9,000 members worldwide.

With the 1997 merger, the members including True Value Philippines have over 100 years of experience and strength in numbers.

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d. (1) Quaker Cereal Beverage polybag/carton
e. (1) Quaker Oatmeal Porridge carton

3. Send / Mail entries to:

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The Partnership Network, Inc.
Unit 711
IPI Buendia Tower
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Or drop entries in Quaker Mom's Allowance drop boxes in selected supermarkets

4. Promotion Period: July 15 to Oct. 12, 2002

5. Raffle Draws:

Draws	Deadline for Entries	Raffle Draw
1st Draw	Aug. 10	Aug. 17
2nd Draw	Sep. 7	Sep. 14
Grand Draw	Oct. 12	Oct. 19

6. Raffle Prizes:
a. 1st Preliminary Draw - Ten (10) lucky Moms (3 from GMA, 2 from Luzon, 3 from Visayas and 2 from Mindanao) will receive P10,000.00 cash allowance per month for 3 months. Aside from the allowances, Fifty (50) Quaker gift packs will be given away.

b. 2nd Preliminary Draw - Ten (10) lucky Moms (3 from GMA, 2 from Luzon, 3 from Visayas and 2 from Mindanao) will receive P10,000.00 cash allowance per month for 3 months. Aside from the allowances, Fifty (50) Quaker gift packs will be given away.

c. Grand Draw - Ten (10) lucky Moms (3 from GMA, 2 from Luzon, 3 from Visayas and 2 from Mindanao) will receive P20,000.00 cash allowance per month for 3 months. Aside from the allowances, One Hundred (100) Quaker gift packs will be given away.

7. Each entry can only win once per draw. If an entry is drawn more than once, participants automatically win the prize with the higher value. Another entry will be re-drawn for the prize with the lower value.

8. All non-winning entries in the preliminary draws will be included in the grand raffle draw.

9. All winning entries will be drawn and validated by representatives of Quaker Oats Asia, Inc, its Advertising/Promo Agency and BFAD.

10. Winners will be notified thru registered mail.

11. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from date of notification letter, will be forfeited, with prior approval of BFAD.

12. Winners must present the registered mail sent to them by Quaker Oats Asia, Inc. together with two (2) legally acceptable evidences of identification.

13. Employees of Quaker Oats Asia, Inc., their affiliates, distributors, advertising and promotional agents, BFAD representatives, as well as their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity are not qualified to join this promotion.

DOH-BFAD # 05388.2002

Transforming hardware stores into lifestyle centers

JOE John Gomez, TruServe International sales and marketing manager, in one of his training sessions with True Value staff.

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FIRST came the hardware stores. These were typically small, dark rooms, crammed with plywood, nails, hammers, corrugated roofs and a thousand other items.

When Filipinos became more sophisticated, there came the workshops and mall-based hardware stores.

The new hardware stores that became a hit among the middle class were well-lit organized shops that did not just carry hardware items, but an assortment of goods for the house and the car.

True Value, which was one of the first to introduce the new kind of home store to the Philippines, is again leading the evolution from large mall-based hardware stores to lifestyle centers.

True Value president Alfonso Recto says today's home centers continue to sell nuts and bolts, paints and plumbing, nails and lumber but offer other products like pillows, flowers and plants, barbecue grills, car supplies and knockdown furniture.

A home center today, he says, is the equivalent of a lifestyle improvement center where ordinary people can come in and pick up an item or two that they would need to improve their homes themselves.

In today's world where people have become dependent on high technology, Recto says there has been a growing interest in going back to basics of home living.

This explains the increased sales in recent months of do-it-yourself kits to improve homes, small home kitchen appliances and at-home entertainment gadgets.

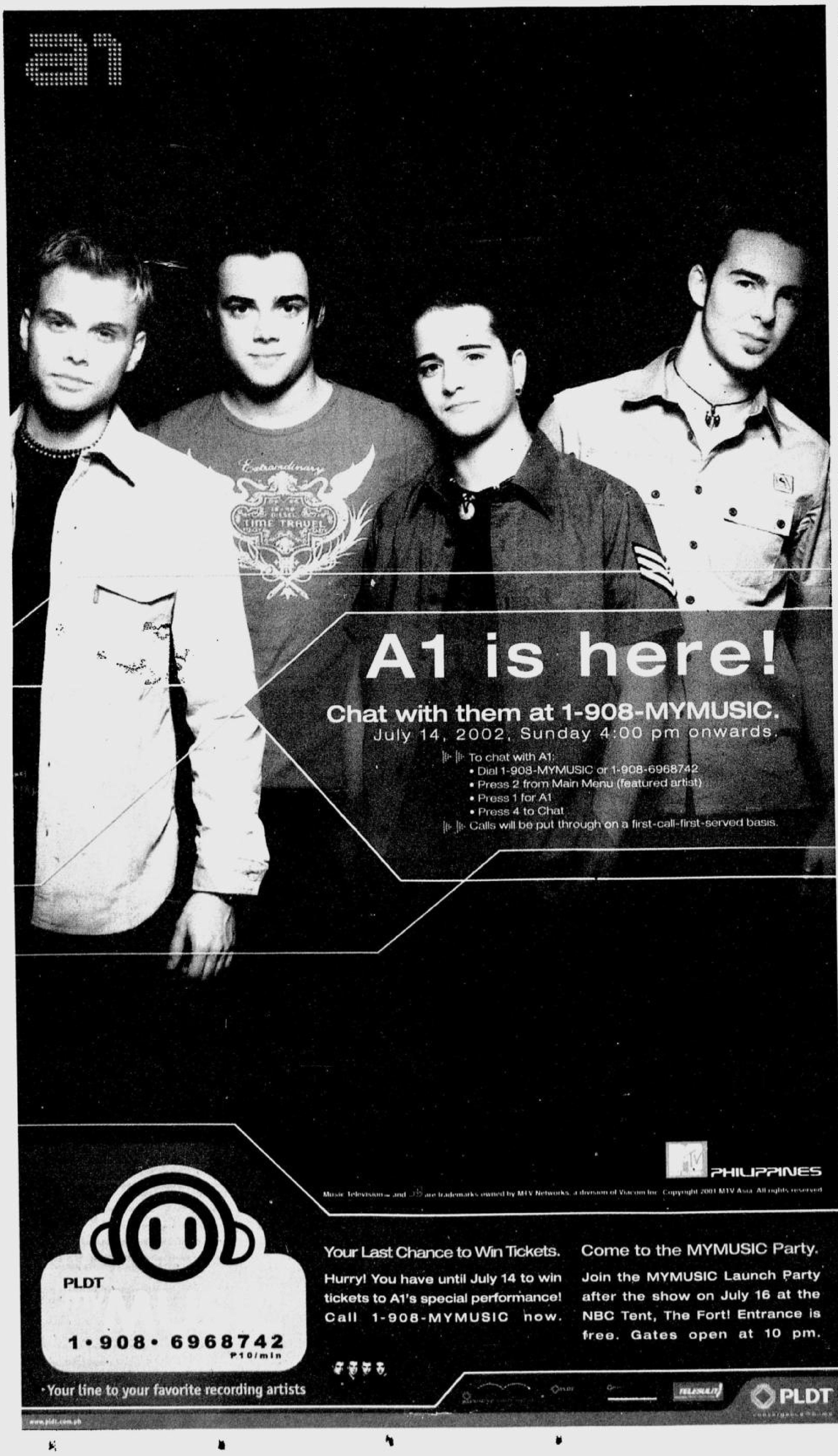
Fast-moving items include lawn and garden supplies, electrical materials, power tools, paints, food processors, cutlery and coffee makers.

True Value Philippines also stands out from the rest of the True Value operations because of the big area set aside for barbecue equipment.

It can also be noted that it is not just the men who are out buying home improvement items.

Joe John Gomez, True Value's international representative, notes that 25 percent of True Value's clientele—in 40 countries where it has 6,000 stores—are women.

TRANSFORMING/ C7



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Some post-it notes on story of 3M

ST. PAUL, Minnesota—It is a safe bet that any company celebrating its centennial has a treasure chest of quirky facts, statistics and anecdotes that shed light on an organization and its style of doing business.

And 3M is no exception, due in large part to the company's rich history, incredible diversity and unique corporate culture.

When the company you have worked for has been around for 100 years, there are bound to be things about it that you have not heard of or read about, no matter how long you have been in its employ.

A company's heritage is made up of people, what they did, their successes and failures. One such company is 3M and one such employee is Myra Diokno-Sarmenta, marketing communications officer, corporate marketing and public affairs, of its Philippine subsidiary—3M Philippines.

Myra has always been fascinated by 3M, which she joined in 1989 and is still thrilled to learn new things about 3M.

The following is a collection of facts, statistics and anecdotes about 3M—some of which may be unknown to many 3M employees and even the most ardent followers of the company:

Scotch tape

Scotch Tape got its name when a St. Paul auto painter, annoyed that an early prototype of masking tape only had adhesive along its outer edges, proclaimed, "Take this tape back to those Scotch bosses of yours and tell them to put more adhesive on it!"

The name—like the improved tape it inspired—stuck.

3M was founded in 1902 to mine Crystal Bay corundum, an ideal substitute for a mineral used by furniture makers. It wasn't until 1907 that 3M's founders learned that their corundum wasn't corundum at all, but a useless low-grade mineral.

William L. McKnight, a longtime president and chairman of the board of 3M, joined the company in 1907 as assistant bookkeeper when the headmaster of Duluth Business University recommended him, despite having completed just five months of the six-month course.

3M was the first company to use office voicemail, when it became available, in 1980.

US astronaut Neil Armstrong walked on the moon wearing space boots with soles made of synthetic material from 3M. The company's tapes, plastics, sealers, adhesives and ceramics have been part of spacecraft construction, as well as protective clothing for astronauts.

Scotch Audiotape brought a Christmas message of peace from US President Dwight Eisenhower transmitted from a satellite orbiting earth.

Surgical drapes

3M employee Lew Lehr refused to give up when his superiors insisted that he discontinue efforts to market 3M surgical drapes in the 1940s.

The product eventually became a best seller for 3M and was the first health care innovation in a now $3-billion market center. Lehr later became chairman of the board and CEO of the company.

In 1984, 3M was the first American-based company in the modern era to establish a wholly owned subsidiary in mainland China.

3M developed the first refastenable diaper tapes in 1985.

In 1985, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences gave 3M a Scientific Engineering Award for magnetic film that greatly enhances audio capabilities of movie soundtracks.

3M invented the first artificial playing surface used at athletic facilities, known as Tartan Turf and Tartan Track.

Michael Johnson won a gold medal in the 2000 Olympics 400-meter sprint wearing shoes made from 24-carat gold Scotchlite brand reflective fabric developed by 3M.

3M is the leading provider of signage materials around the world for both traffic safety and commercial messages.

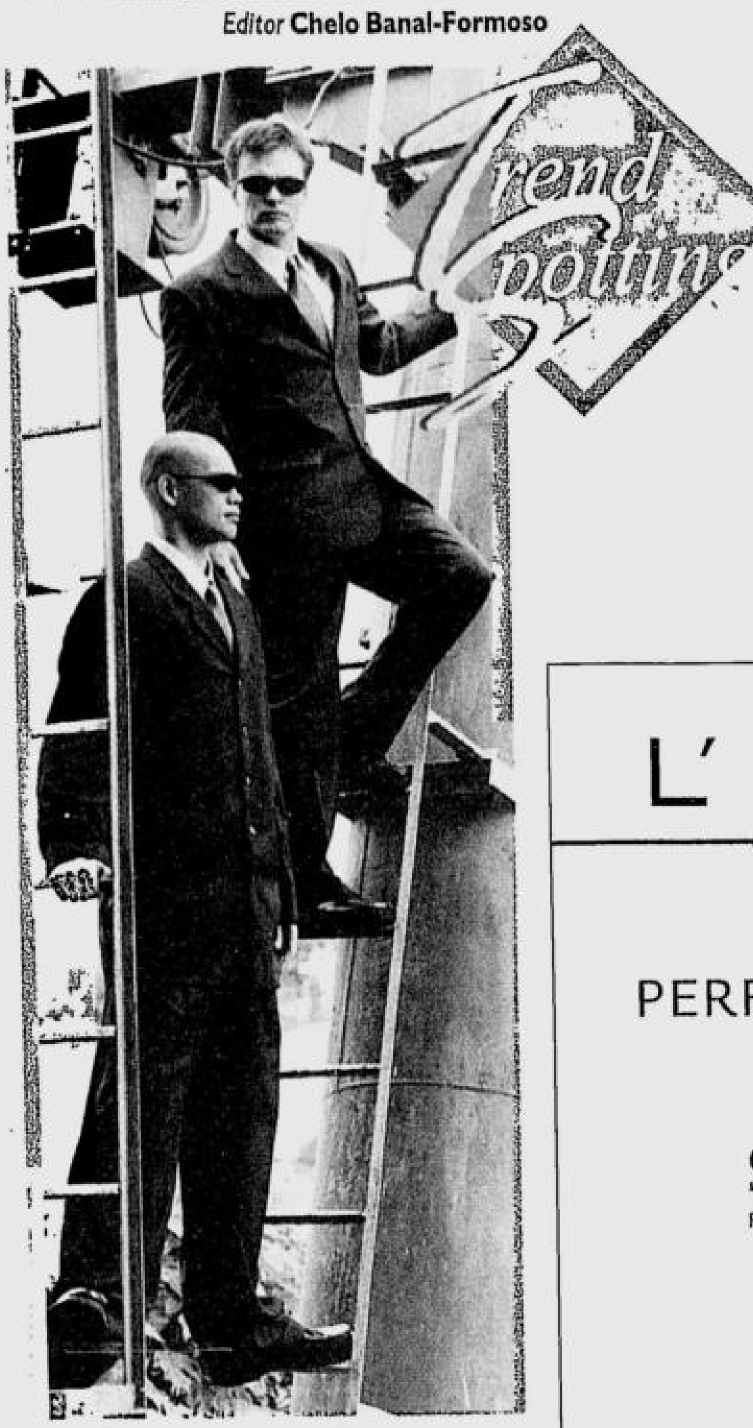
3M was one of the first American companies to establish a global presence. By 1992, 3M's international operations contributed more than 50 percent of the company's revenues. That figure grew to 53 percent of the company's revenues in 2001.

3M's worldwide environmental initiatives have yielded an 88 percent reduction in volatile organic air emissions from 1990 levels and cut manufacturing releases into water by 82 percent.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso



DANNY SIEGEL
AND ALEX COMPTON

Men in black p. D4

Cellulite is accumulated in your skin's deeper layers to bulge out in unsightly "orange peel" areas on your buttocks, hips and thighs. But here's the good news. You can control the look of cellulite in 6-8 weeks. Cellasene, the clinically-tested breakthrough cellulite pill has sold 15 million packs in 25 countries and is the top selling brand in Europe and Japan. Developed and made in Europe, Cellasene is a

The naked truth!

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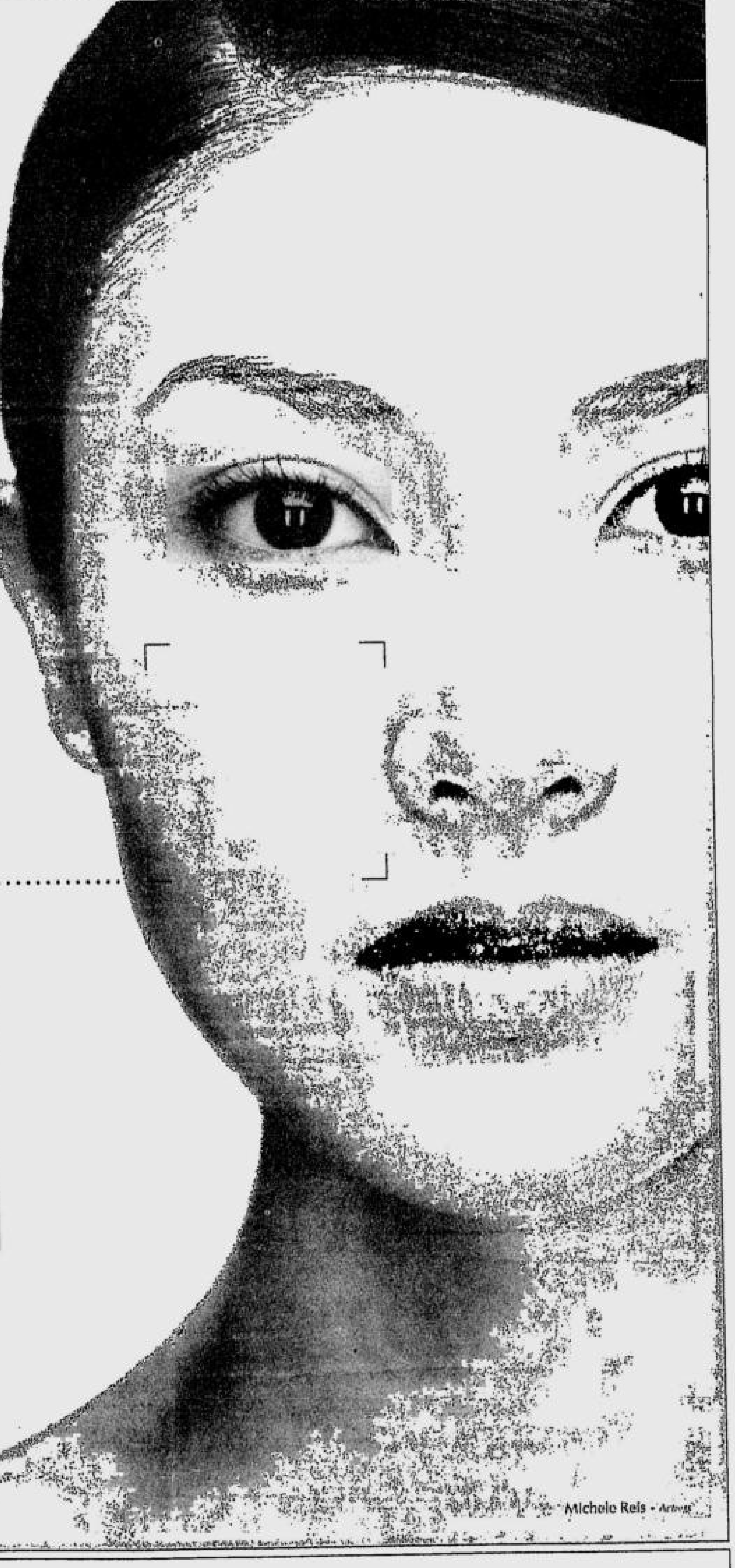

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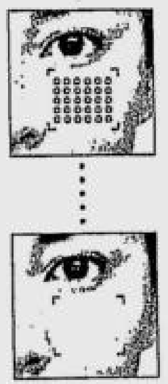

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A Touch of Mystery

TOUCH MOBILE IS GIVING AWAY P100,000 IN A TOUCH OF MYSTERY.

Guess this Mystery Voice of the Week (July 12- 18):

"You're nothing but a second rate, trying hard copycat!!!"
A. Cherie Gil *B. Gladys Reyes*

Text your answer and WIN!
1. Register by texting "TOUCH<space> REG<space>YOUR NAME<space>ADDRESS" then send to 2336.
2. Pakinggan ang Mystery Voice sa Carita de Angel (Wed. 6-7PM), Star of the Night (Sat. 7-8PM) & PBA (Sun 6PM) sa IBC 13 o sa inyong Touch Mobile (dial 8149).
3. Send your answer by texting "TOUCH<space>A or B" then send to 2336. For help, text "TOUCH" then send to 2336 on your Touch Mobile.
4. Deadline for each week's entry is every Thursday 12mn.

Grand Raffle Draw is on August 8 kaya sali na! The more text entries you send, the more chances of winning!

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Tees across the years

1970S LOOK. T-shirt with Love print, P189

1980S LOOK. V-neck shirt with Powered by Rock & Roll print, P299

1990S LOOK. Round-neck shirt with Upbeat print, P189

2000 LOOK. V-neck shirt with ruffles, P299

MODELS: AMINA ARANAS AND LEXI SCHULZE
MAKEUP: ERIC MANINGAT

IF there's a single piece of clothing that can cross eras, it's the ubiquitous tee.

From the classic Audrey Hepburn look, with brooch and pearls, to the '60s Flower Power, all the way to the techie new millennium, tees make the transition adeptly.

With today's fashion being more of personal statement than anything else, and with the retro look coming back with a vengeance, you can't go wrong with a trusty tee. Get a Sabrina-cut sleeveless top for the classic look, or a sexy one that laces up front, or a plain body-hugging one. At Fish, there's a tee to suit whatever statement you want to make.

Fish is available at Quad II, Glorietta, Robinsons Place Ermita, Robinsons Galleria, SM City Manila and SM Southmall.

1950S LOOK. Sleeveless shirt with boat neckline, P299

1960S LOOK. Short-sleeve shirt with scoop neckline, P199

1940S LOOK. Pink tee with shoelace accent and U-shaped neckline, P299

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Kids these days

Edsa Dos the revolution of the youth? They have gone back to the shopping malls

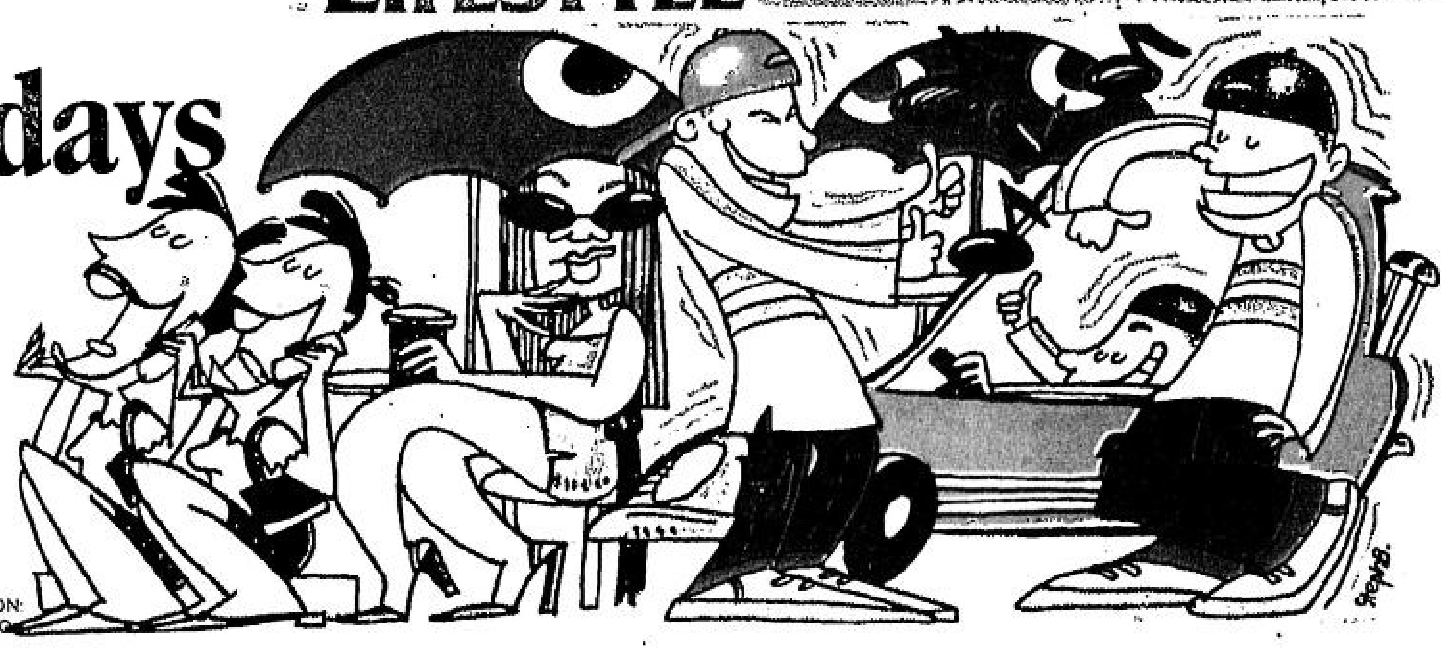


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

OVER business lunch, an old friend of mine from too many years opened the proverbial can of worms when he started talking about his kids.

With a sigh that can come only from a dad who has braved too many sleepless nights and endless discussions with his wife, he described his children as "academically challenged." In the spirit of political correctness and in line with acceptable social behavior, I threw a sympathetic look at him and said, "Well, you can't expect your children to be who you were or are."

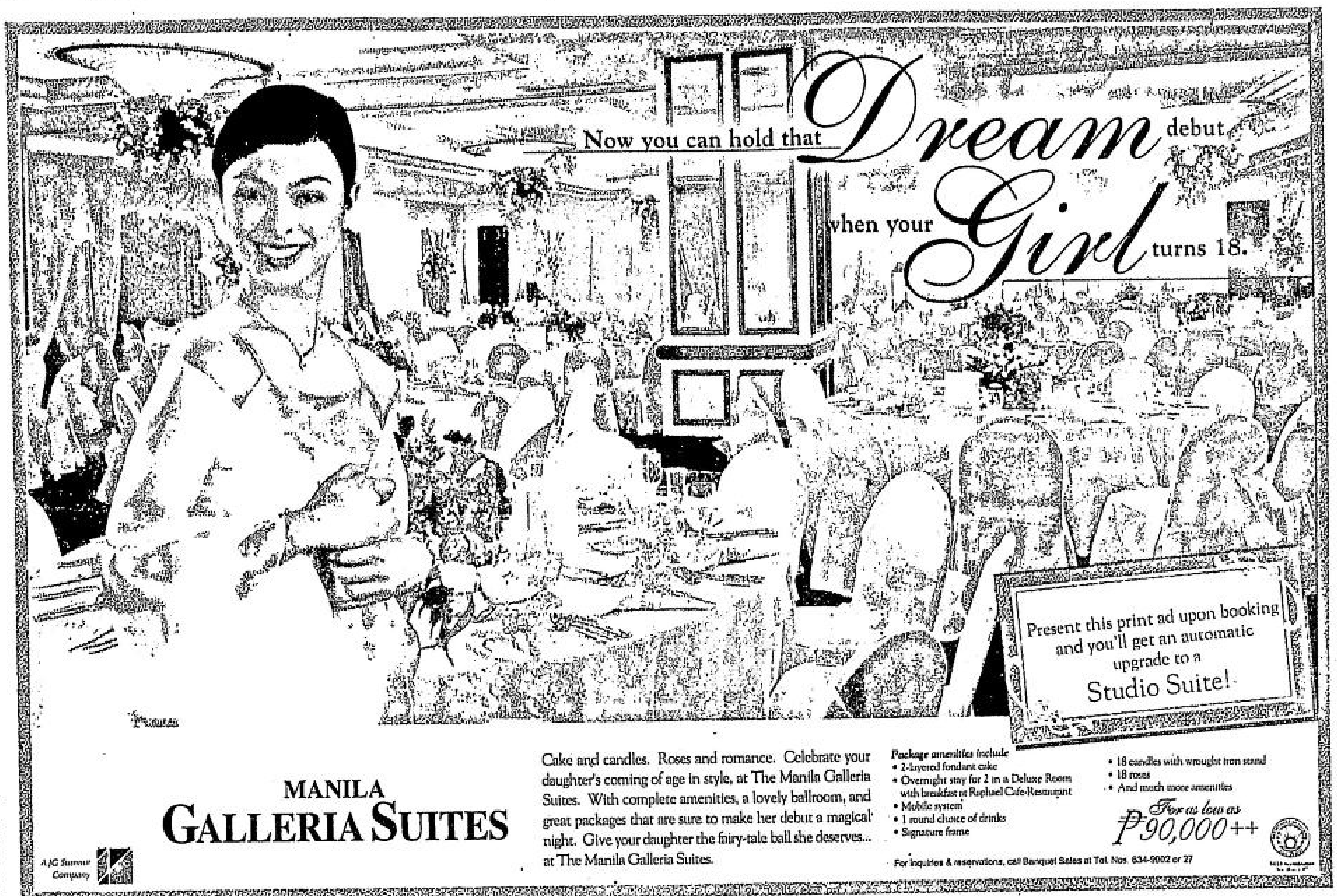
This provoked my friend into a fashionable guilt trip. He claimed that the way he raised his kids was in a manner directly contradictory to the brand of upbringing he received from his parents. And, boy, did we both identify with the whole "expectations baggage" thrown on our backs by our dads and moms. That was the time when we had to live up to a specific quota in our grade point average. It wasn't all that bad, you see. There was a time when ending up a summa or magna cum laude guaranteed a bigger fighting chance in the battle for the future.

But nowadays it seems that the equations have changed drastically. For how can anyone, for instance, justify the mega-success of computer geeks who drop out of school, turn anti-social, hibernate in their fully-wired lairs and make zillions by concocting programs that give the goose bumps to Bill Gates? Whatever happened to that formula for success that involved putting in a lot of hard work, possessing a vision for the future, or even trying to live up to your Catholic Alma Mater's mission statement?

I couldn't help but swap notes with my friend, talking about the kids I knew from my family and work. Yes, it is true that I cannot figure out how my nephews—now in their 30s—have absolutely no compulsion to get married, much less gain the independence from the bondage of their elders.

Each time I have a chance, I keep telling my nephews that when I was their age, I was living on my own, saving enough money to buy my own slice of earth and build a house. I had a feeling of responsibility not only to my family

KIDS/ p.D7



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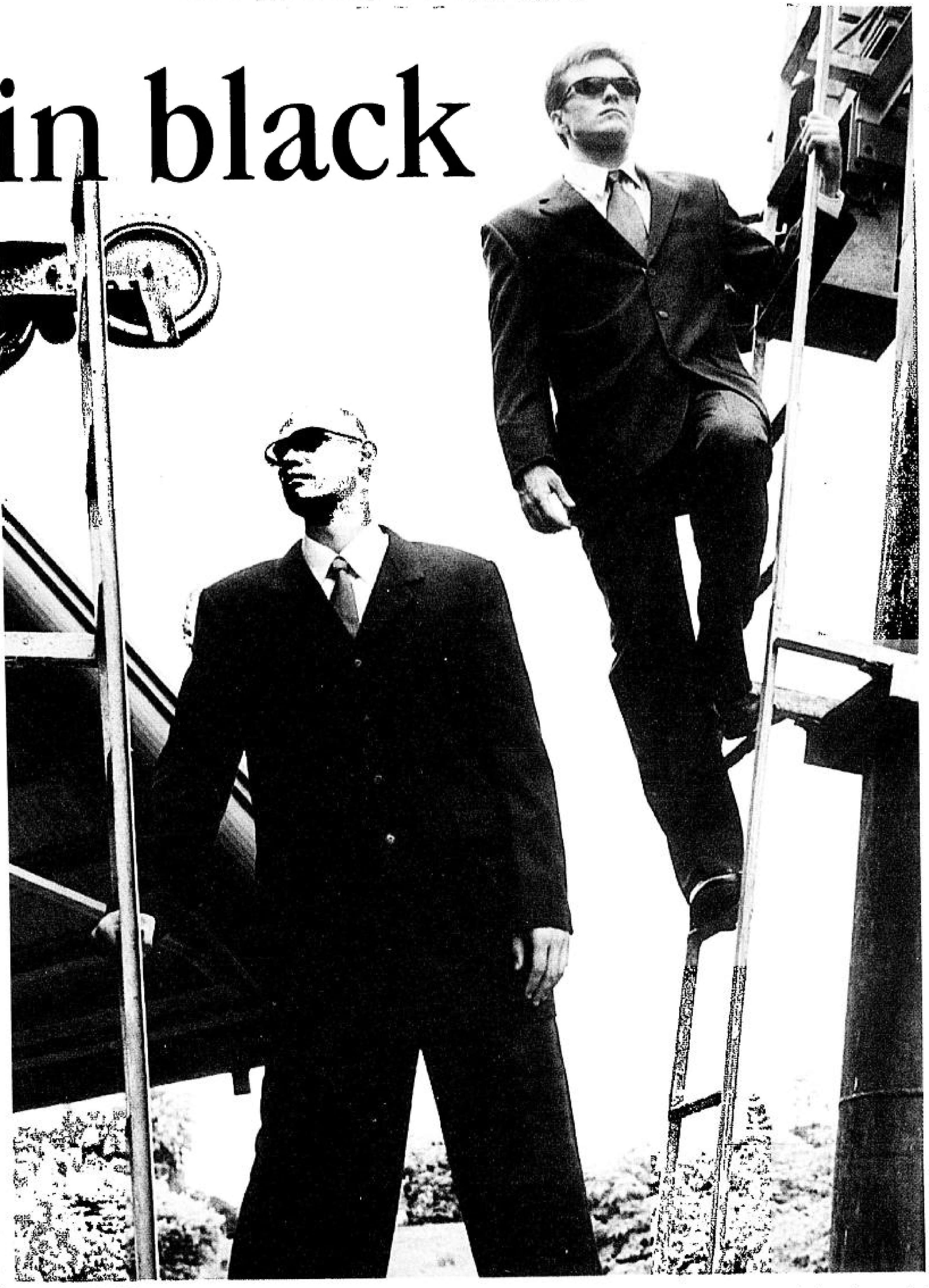
Men in black

Hardcourt heartthrobs and Hartmann underwear models Alex Compton and Danny Siegle strike a pose that will shame all the scums of the universe

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Ronnie Salvacion



HANGIN' TOUGH. Danny Siegle and Alex Compton shed their good-boy image in favor of sleek, dark suits ala Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones.

PICTORIAL DIRECTION AND STYLING: ANJOY HIPOLITO

UNDERGARMENTS: HARTMANN AND HANFORD UNDERFASHION

SUNGLASSES: TAG HEUER SPORTS VISION

LOCATION: TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS

BASKETBALL stars Alex Compton and Danny Siegle may be two of the hottest American imports on the Philippine hardcourt these days, but the pair is as Filipino as *buko* pie.

We caught them at a photo shoot for Hartmann underwear at the posh Tagaytay Highlands one overcast morning, and were readily charmed by their wit and their sincerity in immersing themselves in anything and everything that's Filipino.

Except for skimpy briefs (which made us wonder why they signed up as underwear models in the first place), the two gamely slipped into their best casual and formal wear in our version of "Men in Black."

In place of the African-American Will Smith is a shy but towering Filipino-American in the person of 26-year-old Danny, the youngest child in a brood of five. His mother hails from Samar, while his dad is a native of Pennsylvania.

"My father was in the navy and they met in Subic," says the 6'6" cager who plays guard for San Miguel in the PBA. "Except for my eldest sister, the rest of us were born in the US."

Following his brother's footsteps, Danny first set foot in his mother's homeland in 1997. The siblings now play for competing teams. "I first came here to see my brother and check out how things were," he says. "I loved it. I was planning to stay for two weeks and eventually ended up staying three months."

Eager Tagalog learner

Unlike Danny, not a drop of Filipino blood runs through Alex's Caucasian veins. This hasn't stopped him, however, from speaking Filipino (Tagalog) with the flair of a jeepney driver.

"*Kumusta ka, tokayo*? (How's my namesake?)," he greets us as we stepped on the van on our way to Tagaytay.

Having been born in the Philippines 28 years ago perhaps partly explains it. But then again, Alex had to leave the country with his parents before he even turned six months.

Small wonder, actually. Alex's folks are researchers and educators with a special interest in Southeast Asia, particularly Thailand and Laos. The family lived for a time in northern Thailand when Alex was 10. As a rural developer, his father also once oversaw a farming community in Silang, Cavite.

"I used to speak Thai as well, but I somehow lost it," says the guard for the Batangas Blades. "I tried talking to a Thai couple once and every word that came out of me was Tagalog."

Learning a language other than English, he says, is a given in a family where the parents are fluent in both Thai and Laotian. Alex's exposure to anything Asian continued while growing up in Madison, Wisconsin. It was common for him and his brother to entertain their parents' Asian friends.

"I even danced the *tinikling* once during a Filipino community celebration," he says with a chuckle.

Still, his facility to speak and comprehend a foreign tongue and all its nuances and colloquialisms is amazing. More so since he began learning it less than four years ago from a tutor. But nothing, he says, beats learning Filipino in the streets and on the hardcourt.

"I try my best to speak Tagalog to my teammates and companions at home," he shares. "Even if I sometimes butcher the language. I wanted to learn about Filipino culture and the best way to learn it is to communicate with Filipinos."

Words such as "*i-text mo*," and "*wala lang*" pour forth effortlessly from his lips. Even "*deadma*" has found its way in Alex's lexicon. And what about the two restaurants in Quezon City that go by the names Cooking ng Ina Mo and Cooking ng Ina Mo Rin? Judging from his hearty chuckle, even their double meanings didn't escape him.

"I really wanted to come to the Philippines," he says. "But I had no inkling that I'd end up playing professional basketball here."

Fate

As fate would have it, however, Alex again found himself in the Philippines in 1998. Before that, he bumped into an old friend in the US, an assistant coach in college, who recently played here. His dream of playing overseas and in the land of his birth at that soon became a reality.

"When my friend learned that I was born here," he says, "he encouraged me to give it a try. He got me an agent and I ended up playing for the MBA. According to MBA rules, I qualify as a Filipino."

At 5'11", Alex is aware that he doesn't stand a chance of making it in the NBA. But like Danny, basketball has always been his life since he was small.

Except for the traffic and pollution, the two have little to complain about their adoptive country. They still have to get used to images of grinding poverty, though, especially the pitiful sight of street children.

In Danny's case, for instance, being based in Manila has become an ideal way for him to trace his roots and touch base with relatives.

"Actually, it [the Philippines] reminds me a lot of home," says Danny. "It's really a good place to play professional basketball."

Having come from a close-knit family, Danny misses his two sisters. Unlike most American families, his next of kin are all based in and around Scranton, Pennsylvania. Just like Alex's parents, his folks visit the Philippines regularly to watch him play.

Loveless both

"Other than missing my friends and siblings," he says, "I love it here. I could probably live here all my life."

Danny recently broke off with his Filipina girlfriend of two years. She's now in the US pursuing her studies, but the two have remained good friends and still keep in touch.

Alex is loveless as well, but the man is in no hurry to get hitched either. "I'm not purposely looking for someone. I'm just living my life and doing what I want to do. Marriage will come in due time."

Snagging attractive offers to endorse a myriad of products comes with the territory. Alex has been endorsing Hartmann underwear for over two years now. He uses the product and even compares its quality to that of Calvin Klein.

"My buddy who used to work for Calvin Klein likes it [Hartmann]," he swears. "It shows the brand's quality. I gave a bunch of them to my teammates and they love them. *Ang sarap daw, ang lambot* (they're so comfortable to wear, so soft)."

Alex uses Hartmann boxer shorts and boxer briefs and wears its *sando* every night to bed. Danny, who's endorsing the brand for the first time, loves Hartmann's boxer line as well.

The two athletes have probably found an ideal underwear in Hartmann. Aside from using pure US cotton, the brand has infused its underwear with an enzyme that prevents odor-causing bacteria from multiplying. ABQ or anti-bacterial quality is a non-water soluble enzyme much like the pigment found in clothing. Thus, it supposedly doesn't wash off even after numerous washings.

Mansfield International Inc., makers of Hartmann underwear, also manufactures Hanford, Boys and Journey.

Despite the fame and fortune that go with such a high-profile profession, Alex and Danny are aware that nothing lasts especially in the fleeting world of professional basketball. So how do they see themselves 10 years from now?

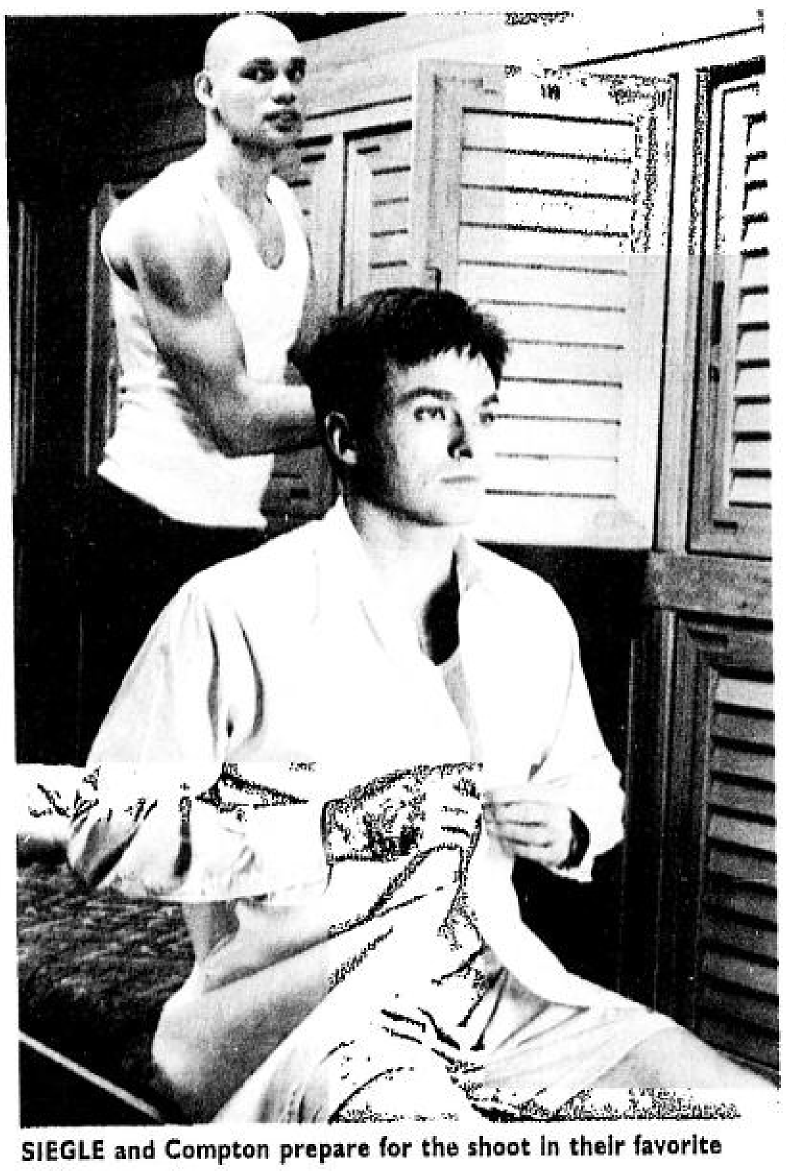
"I'm really not sure," says Danny, who finished academic sociology at Wagner College. "I know I'll be some way involved in sports, whether its coaching or running camps for kids."

Alex doesn't fancy himself as another Jaworski who played professional basketball almost forever. With Alex's ability to speak Filipino, broadcasting is a possible career alternative. Trouble is, he's not too keen about it.

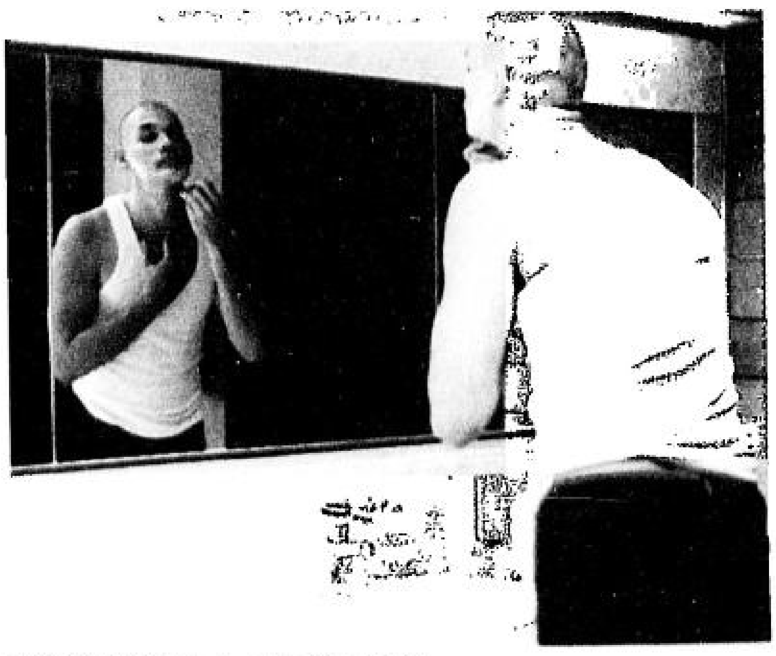
"I once hosted a segment for a TV show," says Alex, who finished human development and family studies at Cornell University. "I enjoyed doing it, but it's not a passion. Honestly, I don't know what I'm going to do."

Bahala na (come what may). Spoken like true blue Filipinos.

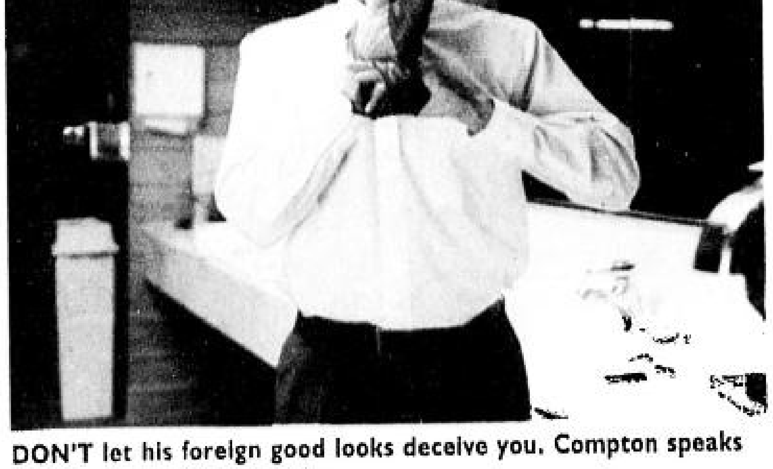
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



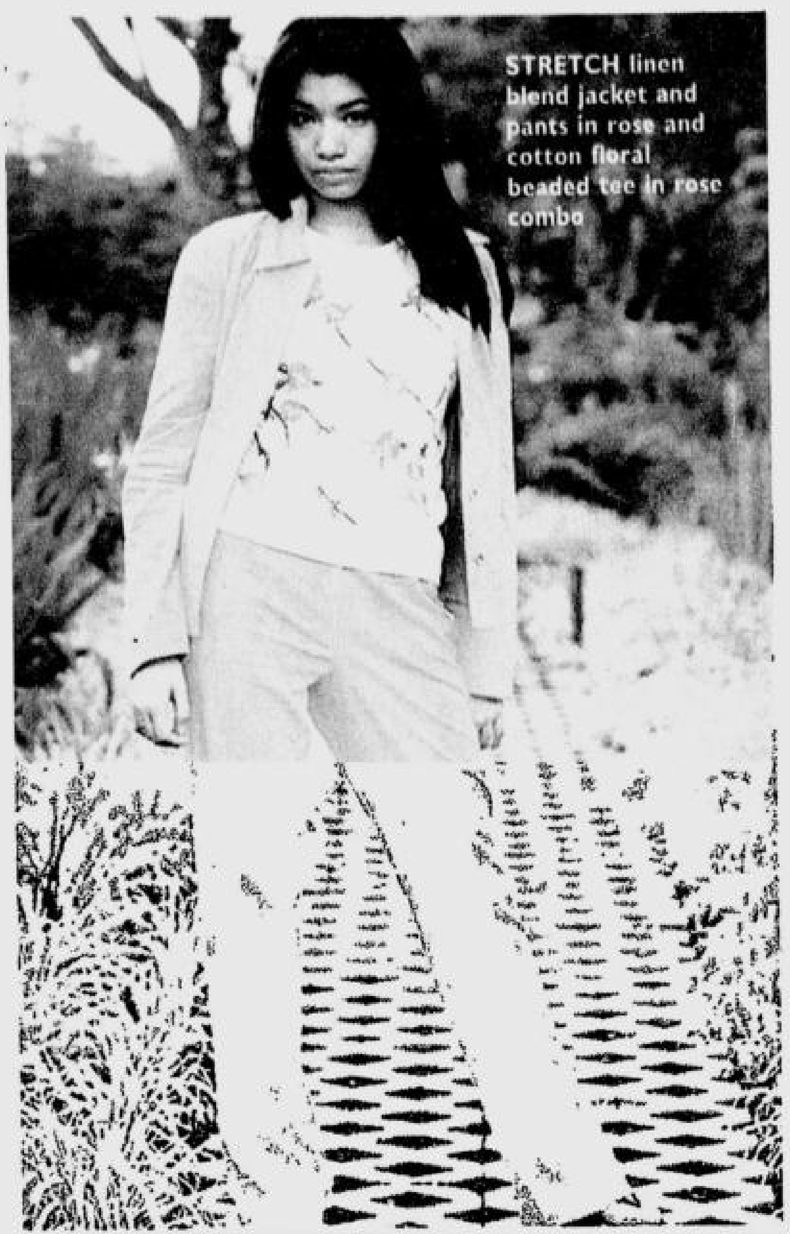
SIEGLE and Compton prepare for the shoot in their favorite undergarments.



CLEAN-CUT Siegle goes all the way.



DON'T let his foreign good looks deceive you. Compton speaks Tagalog like a jeepney driver.



STRETCH linen blend jacket and pants in rose and cotton floral beaded tee in rose combo

Canadian fashion house offers balm for spring fever

THE SPRING collection of mac&jac, a Canadian-based design team that brings old-world charm to casual clothing, exudes freshness despite the traditional cut and styling in its spring collection.

The collection features light linen day jackets, knit sweaters, old-school denim jackets and trousers, and airy three-fourth-sleeve blouses, borrowed from the the past but combined with modern prints rendered in spring's traditional color palettes.

The collection comes in four categories. Reminiscent of floral patches and breezy hills, Tavern on the Green signals fresh botanical inspiration in rose, moss and beige colors.

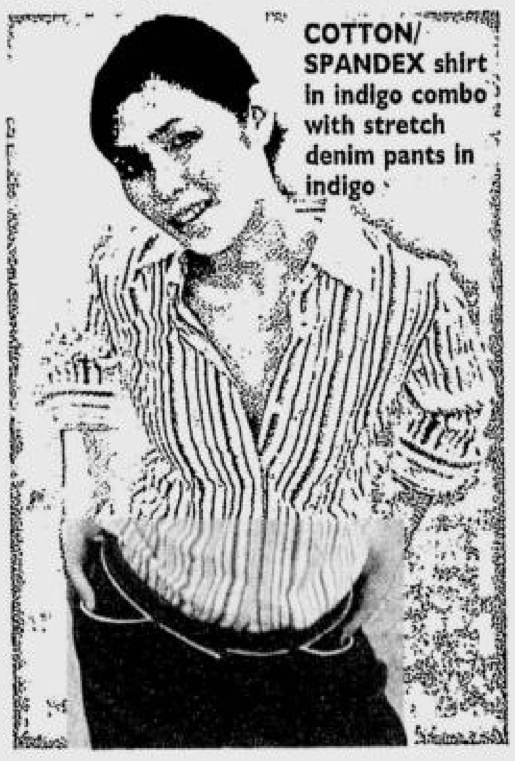
A refreshing take on fair-weather sailing and cruising is Rhythm and Blues, which has a wide range of blue hues, from the silent powder to the more resonant navy, coupled by the refreshing hint of tomato.

America's red, white and blue take on a fashionable twist with gingham checks and stripes in the American collection. Finally, the refreshing sea spray of the Caribbean is the inspiration for Turks and Caicos, consisting of oasis, lime and sea foam colors.

Mac&jac's spring collection is distributed by Fashion Specialists Inc. and is available at 2/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center. Call 728-5259.

REVERSE jersey striped crewneck in artichoke combo and basic flood pants in willow

PLAID Grande shirt in willow multi with basic stretch cotton/spandex pants in artichoke



COTTON/SPANDEX shirt in indigo combo with stretch denim pants in indigo

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(SEE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS PAGE TO FIND OUT)

MILLET Santos-Mortiz, Norma L. Virtucio, Charo Santos-Concio, Belen Lovina Ticzon-Martel, birthday boy Rikki Jimenez, Pitoy Moreno, Ina L. Ticzon, Ophie T. Clemente, Juliet L. Ticzon and Portia T. Santos

GIL Portes, Mel Chionglo, Ben Farrales, RJ, Joel Lamangan and Joseph Cortes

Thai food and a worthy cause

RIKKI Jimenez pauses to make a wish while Belen Lovina Ticzon-Martel and Charo Santos-Concio look on.

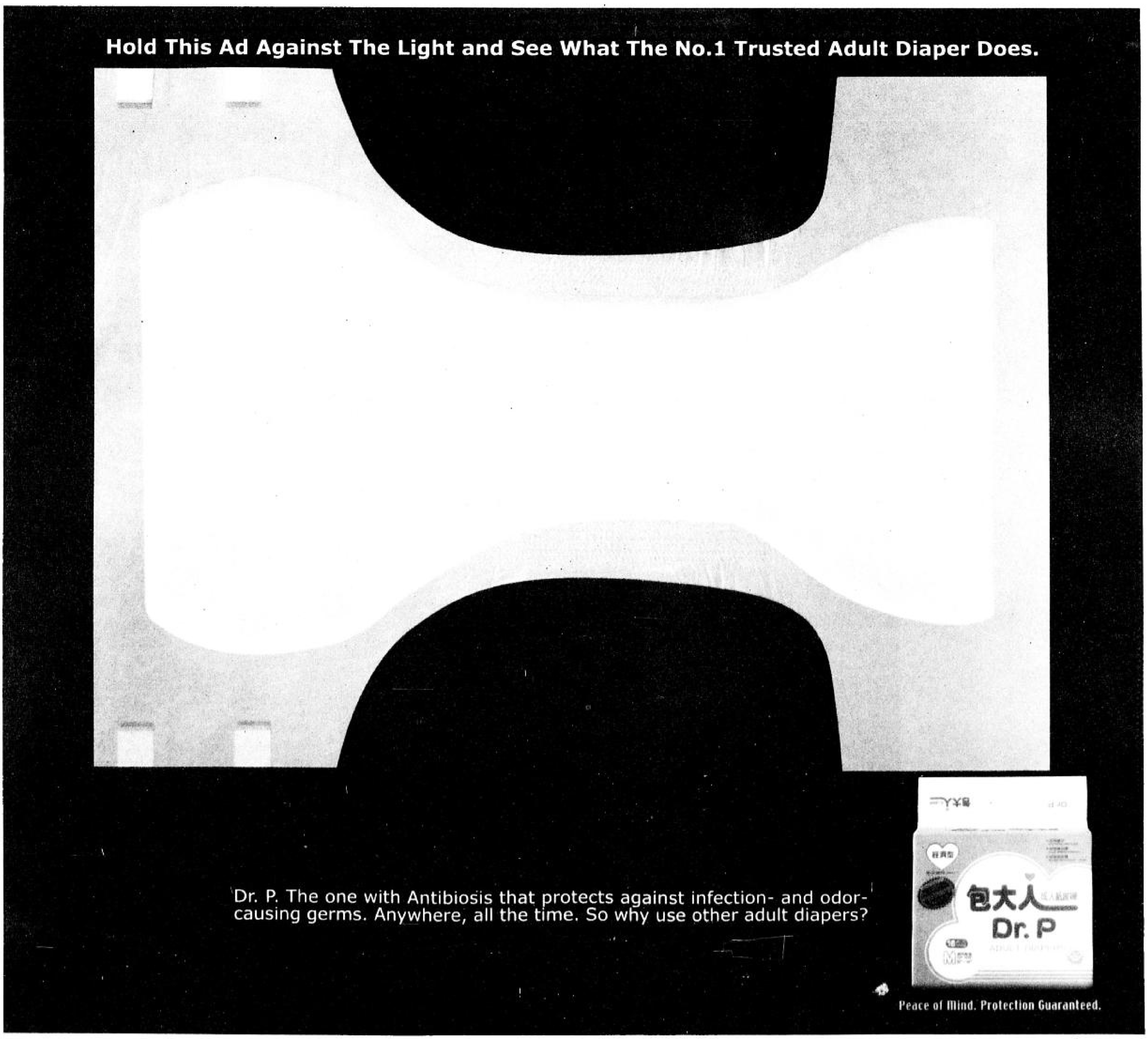
TO GIVE thanks for all the blessings he has received in his life, Rikki Jimenez announced that he would build two public clinics in the public schools in Barangays Barra and Ranzohan in Lucena, Quezon, during the intimate birthday dinner he hosted for his friends at Benjarong Rayal Thai Restaurant of the Dusit Hotel Nikko Manila.

Some of his friends gave donations for the project, a worthy cause that Rikki intends to inaugurate this month.

Guests included Belco Marketing Inc. chair Belen Lovina Ticzon-Martel, ABS-CBN executive Charo Santos-Concio, businesswoman Mely Concepcion Hechanova; philanthropist couple Andy Liboro and Tereret Tambunting Liboro; Nene Leonor; May Neri; Louie and Mellie Ablaza; Norma Virtucio; Fe S. Rodriguez; Manila Bulletin Transportation and Tourism editor Cornelio de Guzman and wife Lydia; Letty Syquia; Pitang Lopez Tiongson; Mabel Abaño; Alice Briones; fashion designers Pitoy Moreno, Ben Farrales, Tony Cajucom and Oskar Peralta; directors Mel Chionglo, Joel Lamangan and Gil M. Portes; Belco Marketing Inc. executives Benny Clemente, Ophie T. Clemente, Juliet Ticzon, Portia T. Santos and Ina Ticzon; antiques retailer Marilou Reyes; Togo honorary consul Evie Costa; Fortune Ledesma; Pacita and Tito de Guzman; Roi Phillips; businessman Alex M. Yu and wife Sol of Lucena City; Mod magazine's Cynthia Santiago and husband photographer Ed Santiago; Philippine Star's Joseph Cortes; and Millete Santos-Mortiz.

TERERET Liboro, Fortune Ledesma and Nene Leonor

(SEATED, from left) Mellie and Louie Ablaza, (standing) Marilou Reyes, Evie L. Costa, Roi Phillips, RJ, and Pacita and Tito de Guzman



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Kids these days

From page D3

but also to my existence.

Although the cost of living on your own nowadays cannot compare with how it was in the '80s, I cannot exactly say that their salaries qualify them among the millions surviving beneath the poverty line. This can be very well proven by their collection of four-digit-priced imported rubber shoes, designer clothes and shoes, their flashy cars and addiction for nightlife.

Complacency

This complacency is so prevalent among the young: their dreams are pegged on very tangible material goals, whether it is the latest model of the cellphone or high-end car accessories that make the dashboard of the SUVs look like Captain Kirk's control panel on the Starship Enterprise. It is not that they live by the dictum of *c'est la vie,* but certainly the philosophy of "buy la vie" emphasizes their passion for conspicuous consumption.

It is not that they do not have ambitions. They do. But to a great number, the sense of future is always defined by what they have rather than who they turn out to be. I am dismayed when I think of how many graduating students dream of bolting out of this country the moment they get a hold of their diplomas, absolving themselves from any responsibilities that approximate national interest.

The desire to "get outta here" is pegged on the prospects of a better life—something that they cannot imagine is possible if they chilled it out here only to mellow and rot.

So what's this big deal about Edsa Dos being a revolution of the young brought about by the magic of text messaging? Whatever happened to the fiery demands for.reform, of this educated young mob mingling with the common *tao* singing "Bayan Ko" with such fervor? I think they went back to the shopping malls (with central air-conditioning) having felt that they did their share in shaping our political history.

Worse, they have withdrawn into that shell of apathy, having discovered that life in these islands have turned out to be more of the same with politics and politicking, turning out to be more ridiculous than the airhead movies and TV shows that they love to watch. They must have discovered with great disillusionment that as long as the generation of their parents rules this country, chances for major reform—New Politics included—will just be another campaign slogan for 2004.

In the eyes of the "Magpakatotoo Ka" generation, the scenario has become all too predictable and even cumbersome. A great majority would rather not have anything to do with it, floating like *dapniyas* and swimming in a canal with hopes that they will find their way to the much wider sea. So whatever happened to the idealism of the youth, the promise that they will inherit the power and the glory? They are too busy buying books on the best text messages and dreaming of a chance to escape to that great somewhere where the air is less polluted and rules are not merely defined but actually followed.

I mentioned to my friend that this is a generation so completely different from what we were. Kids nowadays are raised with the remote control mentality; all it takes is for someone to press a button and the channel changes on the television set. There is no room for patience, there is no appetite for analysis. What you see is what you get. And you can get a lot—whether it is the gamut of cable channels available on paid TV or the millions of websites when plugged into the net. Just press Ctrl+Alt+Del—and the monitor goes black. Move on to the next alternative, that's all.

Couldn't care less

"What about being Filipino?" my friend asked. I gave it some thought and laughed. I remembered what another young friend of mine observed. With the onslaught of globalization, kids just don't care about national identities and territoriality. While the so-called guardians of decency and culture are busy finding ways and means of uplifting the moral status of the population, the kids all want to talk like and look like MTV VJs: the quirky, grungy neither-East-nor-West appeal speaking with a *balikbayan* accent.

They couldn't care less if the art of *pastillas* wrapping in Bulacan sank to oblivion or that Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio died on the same week. Their lamentations were directed elsewhere because they do not feel any sense of loss in being ignorant about their culture. Their mindset is attuned elsewhere.

But then who is to blame for the rise of a generation founded on instant gratification devoid of any resolution much less conviction?

Sure, this is a global sort of thing, wherein being a slacker has become so fashionable. It is so much easier to blame ourselves for having moved too slow or awakened too late to see this alienation between who we are and what our kids have become.

But it is also our inability to rise above our parochiality, our defining ourselves to be so correct, our being judgmental (like this writing) on kids that we completely lose our chances in truly comprehending the complexities of the problem.

Just like the time when we were kids, we didn't want to be like our parents. And we worked so hard not to be like them—only to find out that we have turned into them. So why can't we understand that our kids have deliberately crushed and veered away from the formulae of life that we insist is the only way to deal with life?

They will commit mistakes. They will learn their lessons. And pretty soon they will also become parents. In the meantime, we should stop blaming ourselves exclusively for what we categorize as their failures and shortcomings. Instead, we should ask ourselves how they can idolize or even succumb to our teachings considering the kind of country—the kind of planet we have made for them.

We continue to rant and rave about being good, about being correct, about how far superior we are to the generation that followed us; about how afraid we are for their future. We continue to suffocate them with speeches, posturing and condescension, unaware that in their apathy, kids nowadays know better. We keep insisting on the answers whereas all the while, kids have been asking an entirely different set of questions.

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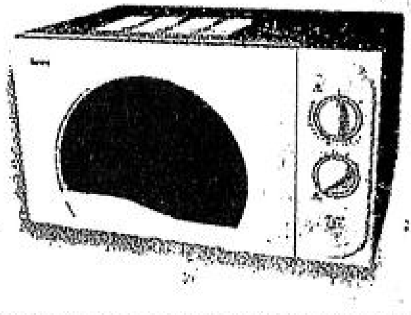

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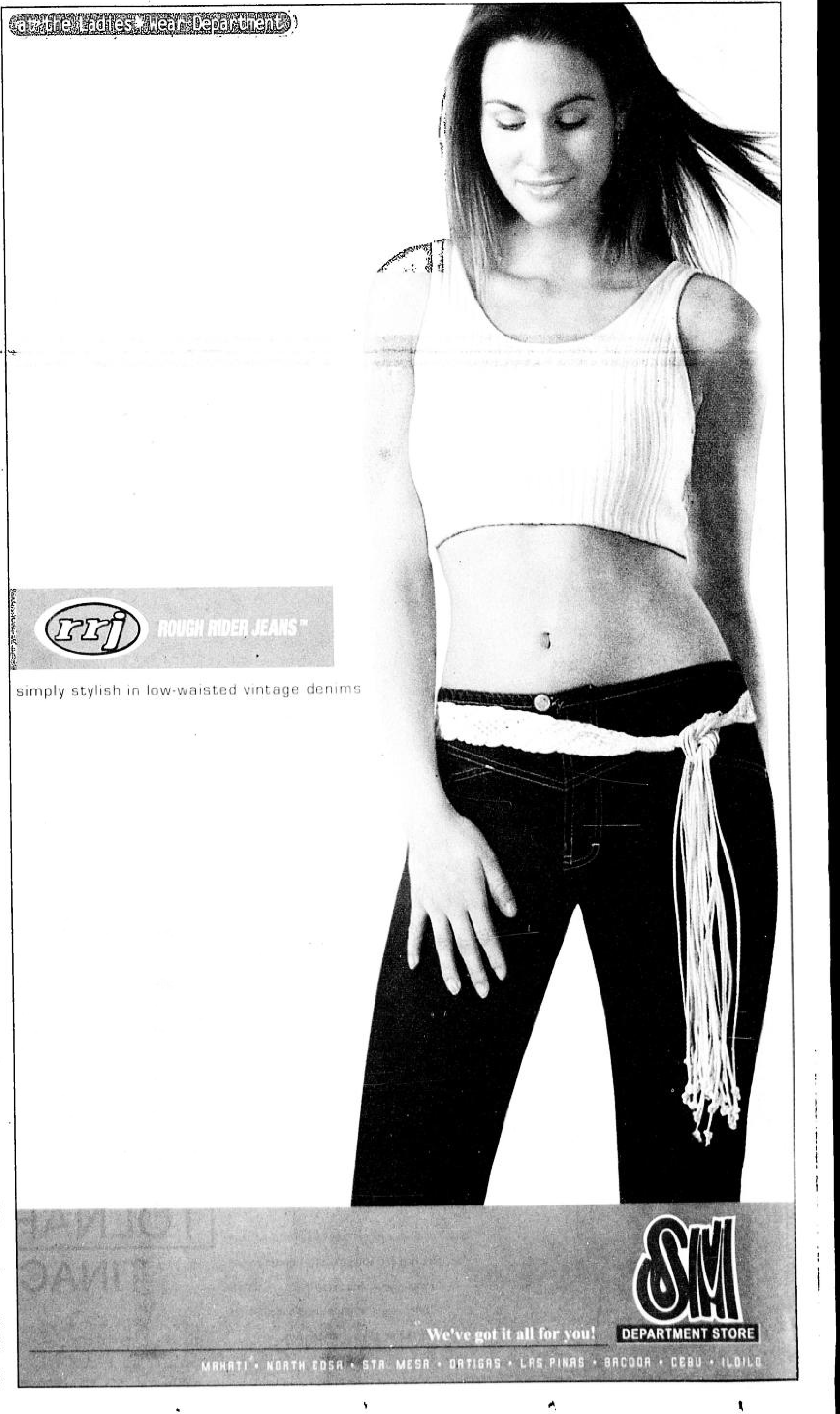
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PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

Enveloped ideas

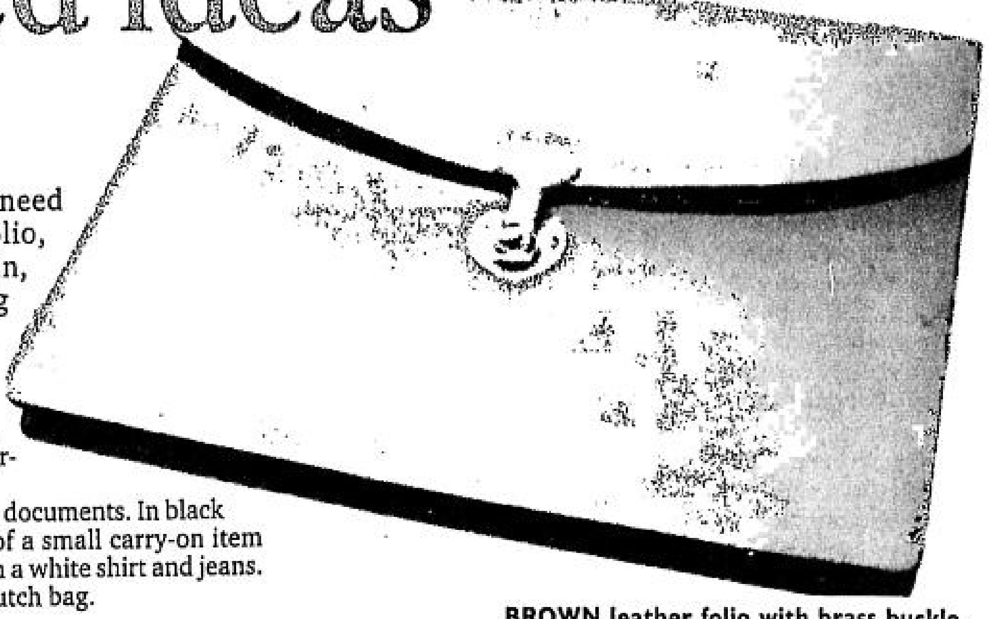
By Camille Cruz-Reyes
Contributor

FOR PAPER-HEAVY days, you would need a handy carry-on briefcase bag or folio, as some people call it. Thick or thin, the folios can be the solution to lessening your mess.

The popular envelope-like case can be comfortably carried under the arm or easily carried by one hand. It can accommodate papers, pens, passports and other important documents. It is particularly handy when traveling.

The folio has the right compartments for storing documents. In black or tan, it can dress you up when you're in need of a small carry-on item other than the mini luggage bag. It looks good with a white shirt and jeans. For the men, the folio can take the place of the clutch bag.

RED "Fuji" folder bag in matte faux leather, P1,998, from Voyage

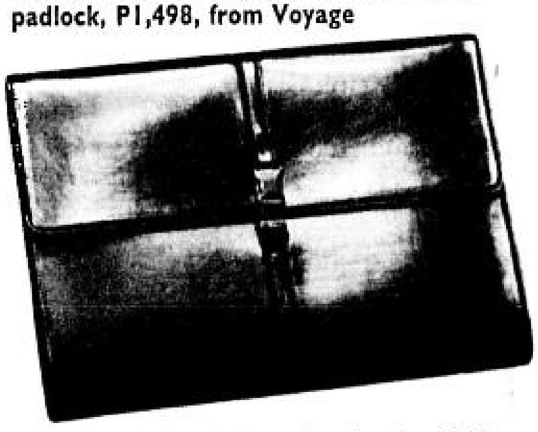


BROWN leather folio with brass buckle, P5,350, from Fino

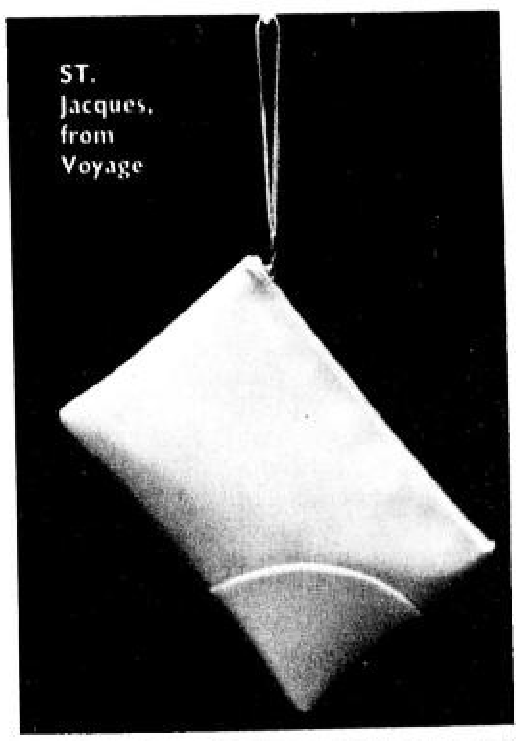
Appear business-like and stylish with the folio

OPORTO black briefcase in faux leather, P1,798, from Voyage

MUNICH black briefcase bag with silver padlock, P1,498, from Voyage

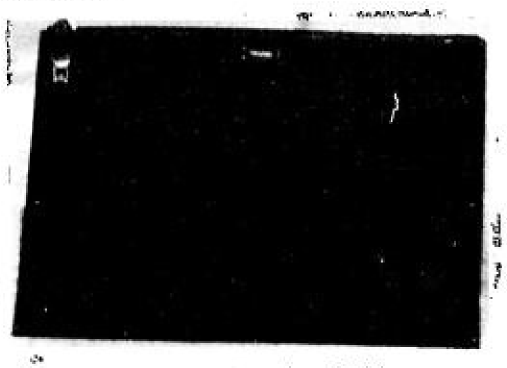


BERLIN black briefcase faux leather folder bag, P1,898, from Voyage

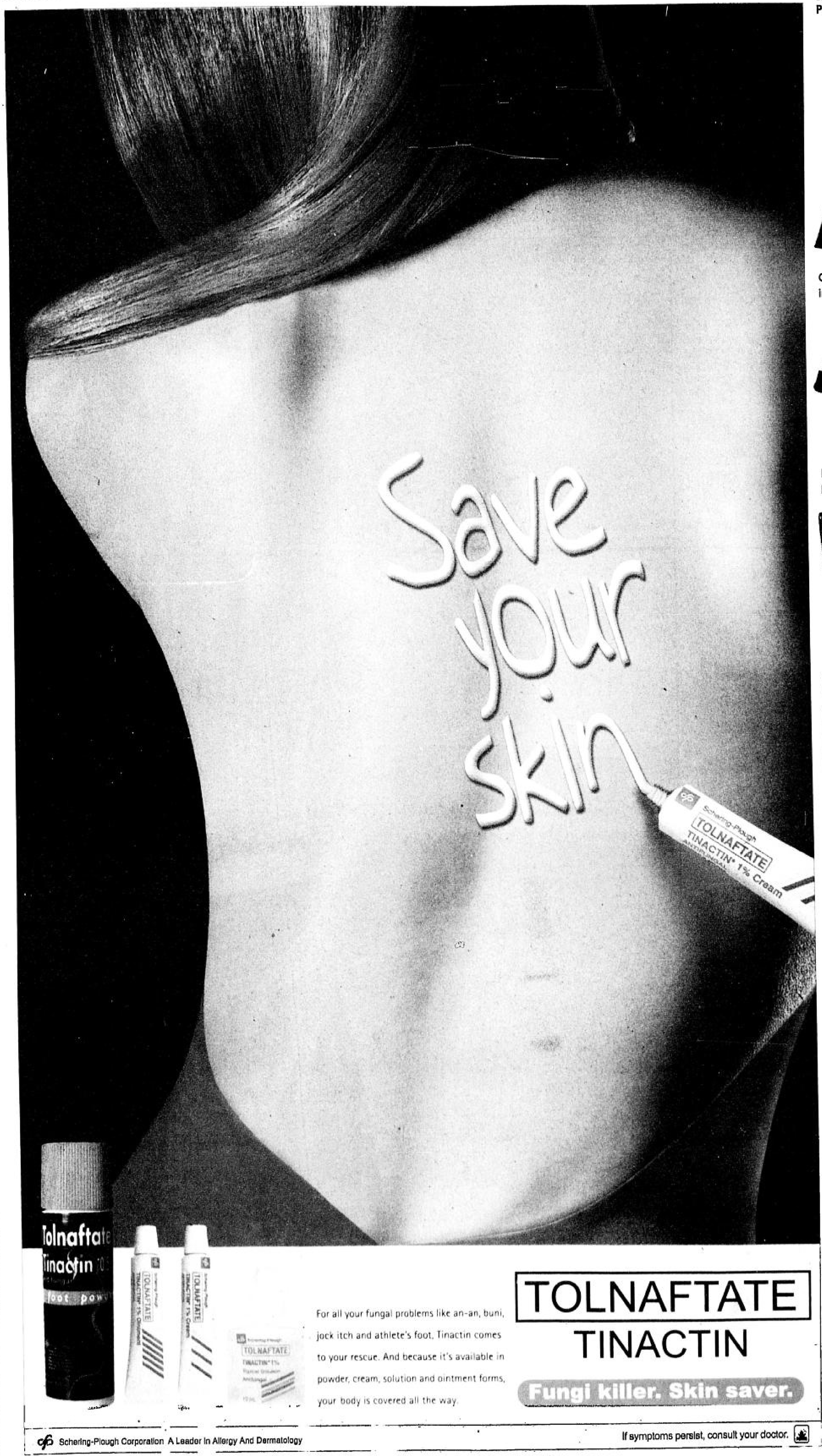


ST. Jacques, from Voyage

BLACK leather litigation folio, P4,350, from Fino



PALMA Large envelope bag holder, P1,398, from Voyage



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For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Trend Spotting

RARE. I Magnini near the Ponte Vecchio may carry things similar to those in other gift shops but it does have one element rare in Italian retail: service.

Off-the-beaten track shopping in Italy

By Kitty Go
Contributor

THERE is only so much fantastic stuff you can get at the *tiangge* before you begin to look like everyone else—or Britney Spears. Some people who get to leave town do their shopping at discount outlets in America, such as Woodbury Common and Century 21. However, if you do get the chance to go to Italy, Florence and Rome are great places for unusual and inexpensive things, from jewelry to glassware. Personally, I find Venice as a city only nice to look at but not to shop or eat in—how's 10 bucks for coffee at Piazza San Marco with pigeons eyeing your biscotti? Milan is basically an industrial city that happens to have churches near designer shops. And don't even go to Naples unless you want to be reminded of shopping in Cubao.

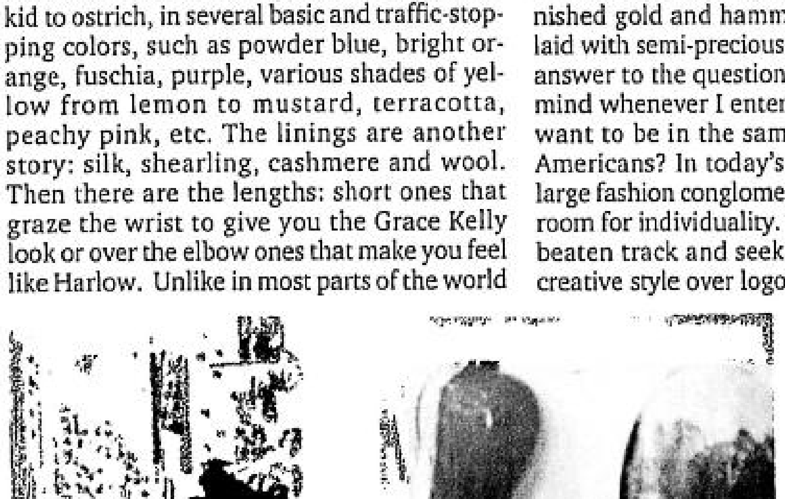
Florence is known for its leather goods and there are countless leather stores selling different quality products at head-reeling prices. However, for that one friend or relative living in the United States (and doesn't every Pinoy have one?) why not get a pair of fashionable Italian gloves in the best leather? **Pusateri** (via Calzaiuoli, 25r; ph 05/521-4192), near the Duomo in Florence, has a selection of gloves for men and women that puts an end to the boring cashmere lined black leather glove. Gloves come in various types of leather, from kid to ostrich, in several basic and traffic-stopping colors, such as powder blue, bright orange, fuschia, purple, various shades of yellow from lemon to mustard, terracotta, peachy pink, etc. The linings are another story: silk, shearling, cashmere and wool. Then there are the lengths: short ones that graze the wrist to give you the Grace Kelly look or over the elbow ones that make you feel like Harlow. Unlike in most parts of the world where you just slip on a pair of gloves then wiggle your fingers around, the staff at Pusateri requires you to put your elbow on the counter, raise your hand, then allow them to slip the glove over your fingers for the perfect fit. The prices are not exactly cheap, but this place is cheaper than similar ones in Rome.

Presents

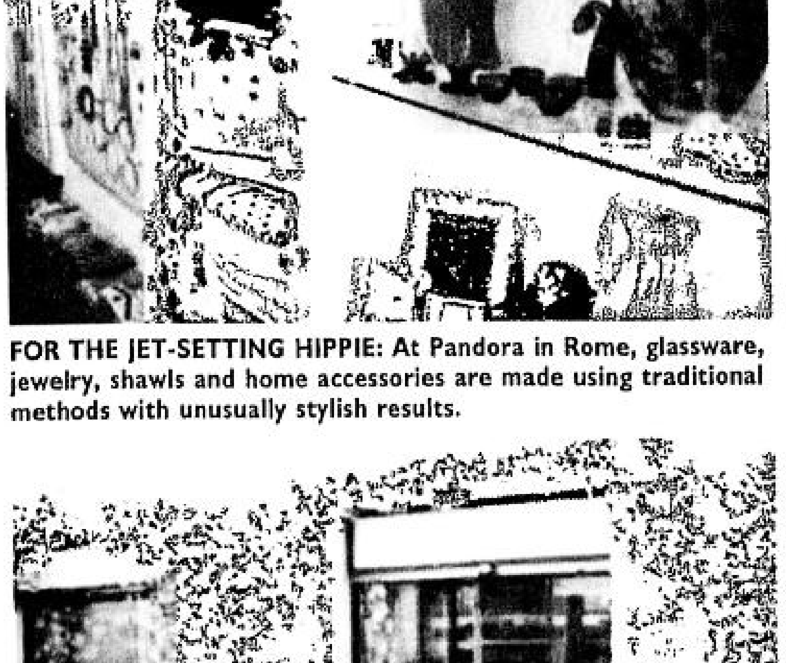
One of the more pleasant things in Italy (and for me, there are very few) is the practice of wrapping every purchase, no matter how inexpensive, like it was a present. Gift shops generally sell the same things like mosaic pendants, Murano glass, semi-precious jewelry, etc. **I Magnini** (Via Guicciardini, 12/r; ph 055/294-534), on the other side of the Arno river from the Uffizi and very near the Ponte Vecchio (but without its prices), sells similar small items like those of most other gift shops. The reason I singled out this store among the many that dot the entire Italian landscape is its friendly atmosphere. Since friendliness is not in the Italian retailer's handbook and I am a sucker for anything rare, even if it is as unimportant to the Italians as service, I figured I have hit the jackpot.

In my favorite district in Rome, I found what I thought was yet another Italian tchotchke shop. But **Pandora** (Piazza S. Maria in Trastervere, 6; ph 06-581-7154) is not quite the usual shop. Your jet-setting hippie friends would love anything from this shop filled with glassware, bead and silver jewelry, lamps, velvet shawls, purses, mosaics, mirrors, etc., made using traditional Italian techniques, producing unusual results. Murano glass production techniques are made into multi-colored square rings or gigantic door-knocker finger adornments. The store carries contemporary burnished gold and hammered silver jewelry inlaid with semi-precious stones. Pandora is one answer to the question that goes through my mind whenever I enter Prada: Would I really want to be in the same shoes as those ugly Americans? In today's retail environment of large fashion conglomerates, there is very little room for individuality. Unless one goes off the beaten track and seeks out stores that value creative style over logos.

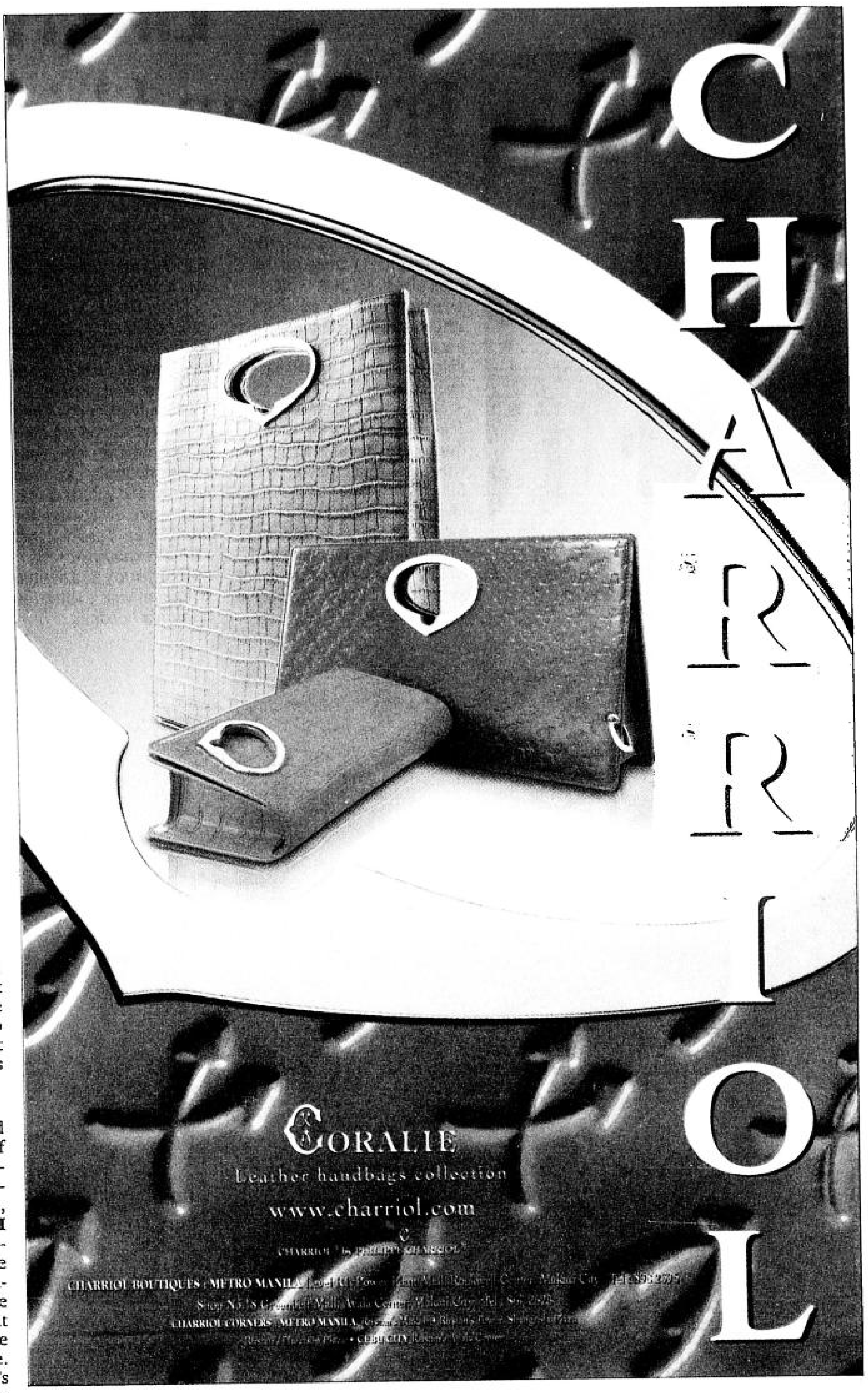
At Pusateri, the staff requires you to put your elbow on the counter, raise your hand, then allow them to slip the glove over your fingers for the perfect fit



FOR THE JET-SETTING HIPPIE: At Pandora in Rome, glassware, jewelry, shawls and home accessories are made using traditional methods with unusually stylish results.



RIGHT on the square in the funky Trastevere district, Pandora features a surprising treasure trove of Italian handmade delights.



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Per DTI-NCR No. A3-476 Series of 2002.

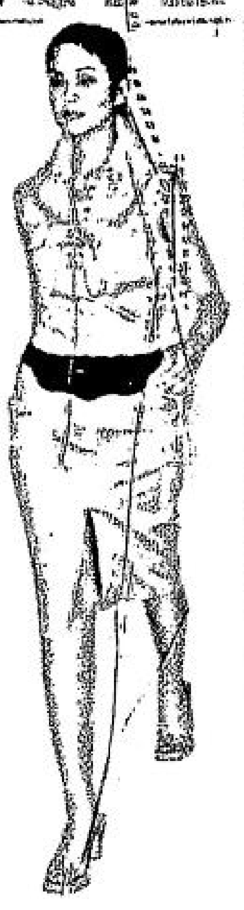
Fresh and hip

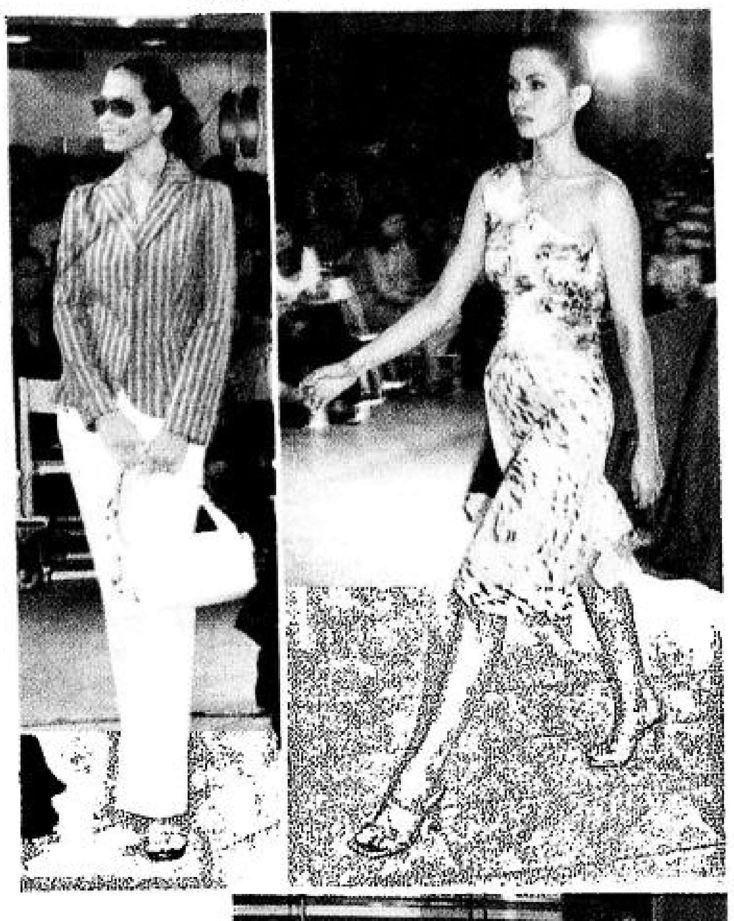
MANGO recently opened its latest shop at The Power Plant, Rockwell, Makati.

Beautiful faces and stylish personalities witnessed the latest from Mango, which everyone found to be absolutely delightful, a must-have among the young, free-spirited and trend-setting fashionistas.

No less than Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay was spotted during the opening, along with wife and former mayor Elenita Binay. Edi Tekeli, owner of Mango, received guests which included Claudia Bermudez, Dish's Philip Cu-Unjieng and EJ Litton, Cosmo editor Myrza Sison, fJenni Epperson, Emilio Tuason and Rica Thio, Rockwell's Tong Padilla, Samantha Lopez, Fe Dixon, Rebecca Dosch, Tina Plaquet, Lilo Guttierez, Mega editor Sari Yap and a bevy of celebrities and hipsters.

Sheer fabrics, romantic ruffles, a hint of sexiness and an exciting take on pinstripes are Mango's fashion mantra for the season, as models sashayed and vogued in white, black and witty combinations before moving to the characteristic neutrals, earth tones, creams, and splash of rouge and denim. As always, the fabrics were pure delights: carefully chosen, utterly contemporary and definitely a pointer of where the latest on fashion is heading.





ELENITA Binay, Edi Tekeli and Amb. Tanjusumir of Turkey. PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

strawberry
Donut de Fruta
frosted fruit flavored donuts
only ₱99 a dozen
macapuno
green apple
Save no less than ₱45
In six delightful flavors
grape
melon
DUNKIN' DONUTS
Per DTI-N[illegible] No. 2718, Series of 2002.
Promo period is from July 12 to August 15, 2002.
Available only at participating outlets nationwide. Not valid for gift certificates, Senior Citizens' discounts and other discounts.

Italian fashion at one's fingertips

CORSO Marconi goes on a fashion offensive with its Price Attack sale promotion.

At stake are signature brands from Italy: Versace, Versace Jeans Couture, Dolce & Gabbana, Gianfranco Ferre, Trussardi, Mariella Burani, Marco Gabbriellini, Navajos, Ennepi Beat, Gai Mattiolo, Domenico Croci, Philosophy di Alberta Ferreti, Pinko, Lui-jo.

A shoot-from-the-hip, 50-percent reduction on previously discounted items (except those with silver tags) is being offered. Imagine owning a beautiful Versace dress, a hip D&G top, or a pair of Trussardi jeans for just a fraction of what you would normally pay for such apparel.

The concept of a fashion stock house, which Corso Marconi is pioneering in Asia, has swept the European continent and is creating waves in the Philippines. Nowhere else can you find a variety of authentic prestigious Italian labels at the best prices.

"Price Attack is in line with our objective of making Italian fashion more affordable to as many Filipinos as possible," says Marconi Fashion Group's Freddy Panicucci. "This promotion is expected to boost consumer boldness in purchasing high-quality Italian fashion wear. We're making dressing up well and looking good easier for Filipinos."

Corso Marconi is at 2305 Marconi corner Morse Streets, Makati City; Robinsons Galleria; Festival Supermall; Cebu; Davao; Bacolod and SM Manila.

GAI Mattiolo pink dress paired with Exit shoes; Tabacco long-sleeve pink shirt, David Mayer black pants, and Axcez black leather shoes; furry top by Mariella Burani per Amuleti, Rose D pink assymetrical skirt and Gardo sandals

HALTER top and printed brown pants from Motivi and sandals by Monn; Black Cabs beige shirt, brown leather pants from NK and D'essai brown leather shoes; and beige top from Motivi, Mariella de Mariella leather skirt, Stefanel scarf and Versace slingback

Farming as hobby and lifestyle

LEISURE Farms Tagaytay, the first resort-type farm in the country, is a hobby-farming and agro-tourism community with a town center, bridle paths, a linear lake, campsite, swimming area and a demo farm, which has been attracting people to its organic-produce market.

Located in Metro Tagaytay, this is the "first real-estate product in the natural-product market," says business-development manager Diane Malonzo.

There had been similar projects, mostly government-run, but they were not as successful. They were either too farm- or business-oriented, or did not consider lifestyle factors, or underestimated people's desire for back-to-basics, more nature-filled living.

"Our success came from innovating on those failed projects," says Leisure Farms' AVP and project director Alfred Xerez-Burgos III. "These innovations included adding a resort flavor to it; software, like farm management services; and an agritainment center."

Landco Pacific Corporation, the developer, purchased the land in early 1997 for a golf-course project. But due to the Asian economic crisis, the real-estate industry suffered, and so the golf-course plans were put on hold.

The concept of hobby farming—the idea of the gentleman farmer who works during the week and goes off to enjoy his farm on weekends—was developed by Xerez-Burgos for his master's degree thesis in the Asian Institute of Management in 1999.

"My thesis was about how I could turn the company's situation around, given that it was the height of the regional financial crisis, and we had a piece of land with no clear option to take," Xerez-Burgos recalls.

Leisure Farms provides farm-management services and professional care for the farm lots, so the resident farmers experience stress- and worry-free farming that's entirely for relaxation and enjoyment.

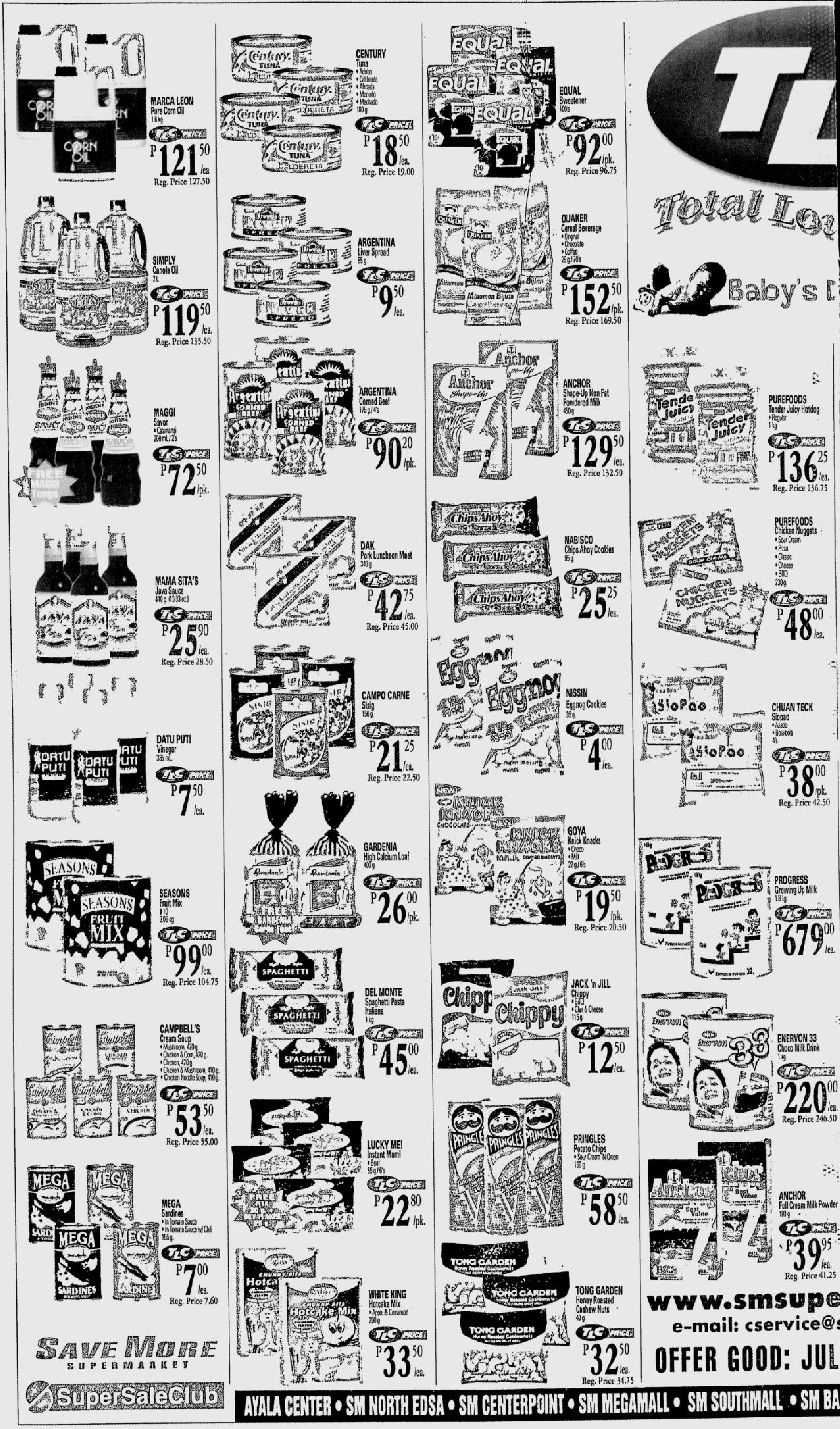
The site is a rolling terrain divided into 1,000-1,500 sq m of farm lots. Farmers enjoy a spectacular view of Mt. Batulao and Balayan Bay and cool weather.

Food styling contest

WILD Vines will hold "Wild Vines, Wines & Dreams," a food styling competition.

Contestants may whip up fabulous and unique hors d'oeuvres to complement their favorite flavor of Wild Vines. They can choose from Strawberry White Zinfandel, Blackberry Merlot, Peach Chardonnay and Raspberry Zinfandel.

Participants must fill up an entry form and submit a short essay explaining the rationale of their entries. For information, call 413-6436 to 37 or 448-5396 to 98. Deadline for submission of entries is on July 13.



MARCA LEON
Pure Corn Oil
1.6 kg
TLC PRICE
P121.50 /ea.
Reg. Price 127.50

SIMPLY
Canola Oil
2 L
TLC PRICE
P119.50 /ea.
Reg. Price 135.50

MAGGI
Savor
- Calamansi

200 mL / 2's
TLC PRICE
P72.50 /pk.

MAMA SITA'S
Java Sauce
410 g (13.33 oz.)
TLC PRICE
P25.90 /ea.
Reg. Price 28.50

DATU PUTI
Vinegar
385 mL
TLC PRICE
P7.50 /ea.

SEASONS
Fruit Mix
#10
3.06 kg
TLC PRICE
P99.00 /ea.
Reg. Price 104.75

CAMPBELL'S
Cream Soup
- Mushroom, 420 g.
- Chicken & Corn, 420 g.
- Chicken, 420 g.
- Chicken & Mushroom, 410 g.
- Chicken Noodle Soup, 410 g.

TLC PRICE
P53.50 /ea.
Reg. Price 55.00

MEGA
Sardines
- In Tomato Sauce
- In Tomato Sauce w/ Chili

155 g.
TLC PRICE
P7.00 /ea.
Reg. Price 7.60

CENTURY
Tuna
- Adobo
- Caldereta
- Afritada
- Menudo
- Mechado

180 g.
TLC PRICE
P18.50 /ea.
Reg. Price 19.00

ARGENTINA
Liver Spread
85 g.
TLC PRICE
P9.50 /ea.

ARGENTINA
Corned Beef
175 g / 4's
TLC PRICE
P90.20 /pk.

DAK
Pork Luncheon Meat
340 g.
TLC PRICE
P42.75 /ea.
Reg. Price 45.00

CAMPO CARNE
Sisig
150 g.
TLC PRICE
P21.25 /ea.
Reg. Price 22.50

GARDENIA
High Calcium Loaf
400 g.
TLC PRICE
P26.00 /pk.

DEL MONTE
Spaghetti Pasta Italiana
1 kg.
TLC PRICE
P45.00 /ea.

LUCKY ME!
Instant Mami
- Beef

55 g / 6's
TLC PRICE
P22.80 /pk.

WHITE KING
Hotcake Mix
- Apple & Cinnamon

200 g
TLC PRICE
P33.50 /ea.

EQUAL
Sweetener
100's
TLC PRICE
P92.00 /pk.
Reg. Price 96.75

QUAKER
Cereal Beverage
- Original
- Chocolate
- Coffee

29 g / 20's
TLC PRICE
P152.50 /pk.
Reg. Price 169.50

ANCHOR
Shape-Up Non Fat Powdered Milk
450 g
TLC PRICE
P129.50 /ea.
Reg. Price 132.50

NABISCO
Chips Ahoy Cookies
95 g.
TLC PRICE
P25.25 /ea.

NISSIN
Eggnog Cookies
35 g.
TLC PRICE
P4.00 /ea.

GOYA
Knick Knacks
- Choco
- Milk

22 g / 6's
TLC PRICE
P19.50 /pk.
Reg. Price 20.50

JACK 'n JILL
Chippy
- BBQ
- Chili & Cheese

115 g
TLC PRICE
P12.50 /ea.

PRINGLES
Potato Chips
- Sour Cream 'N Onion

190 g
TLC PRICE
P58.50 /ea.

TONG GARDEN
Honey Roasted Cashew Nuts
40 g
TLC PRICE
P32.50 /ea.
Reg. Price 34.75

PUREFOODS
Tender Juicy Hotdog
- Regular

1 kg
TLC PRICE
P136.25 /ea.
Reg. Price 136.75

PUREFOODS
Chicken Nuggets
- Sour Cream
- Pizza
- Classic
- Cheese
- BBQ

230 g.
TLC PRICE
P48.00 /ea.

CHUAN TECK
Siopao
- Asado
- Bola-bola

4's
TLC PRICE
P38.00 /pk.
Reg. Price 42.50

PROGRESS
Growing Up Milk
1.8 kg.
TLC PRICE
P679.00 /ea.

ENERVON 33
Choco Milk Drink
1 kg.
TLC PRICE
P220.00 /ea.
Reg. Price 246.50

ANCHOR
Full Cream Milk Powder
180 g
TLC PRICE
P39.95 /ea.
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Chicken Cheesedog

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P125^{00}/ea.
Reg. Price 127.75

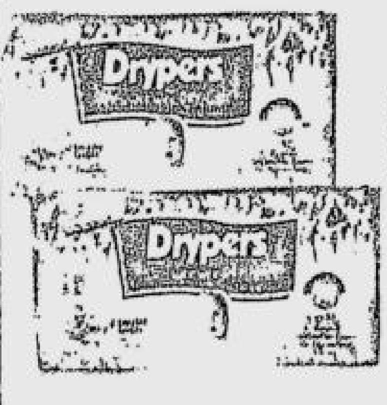
CAMPO CARNE
Sweet Ham
250 g

TLC PRICE
P35^{00}/ea.
Reg. Price 36.75

NESTLE
Ice Cream Supreme
- Cookies 'n Cream
- Double Dutch

1.9 L

TLC PRICE
P159^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price 169.00



DRYPERS
Baby Diapers
- Medium, 28's
- Large 24's

TLC PRICE
P211^{50}/pk.
Reg. Price 222.50

PIGEON
Baby Wipes
With Jojoba
Refill
90's

TLC PRICE
P115^{75}/pk.
Reg. Price 129.75

CHOKI CHOKI
Chocolate Paste
250g.

TLC PRICE
P32^{50}/pk.
Reg. Price 38.75

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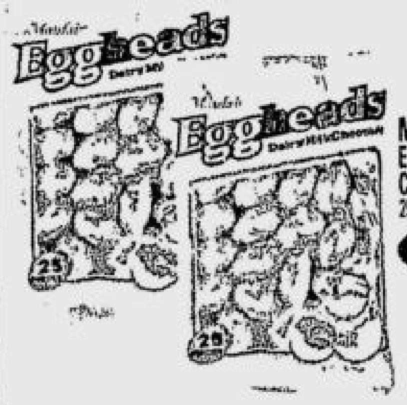
12 TO 25, 2002

SNICKERS
Chocolate Bar
Fun Size
264 g

TLC PRICE
P104^{50}/pk.
Reg. Price 116.50



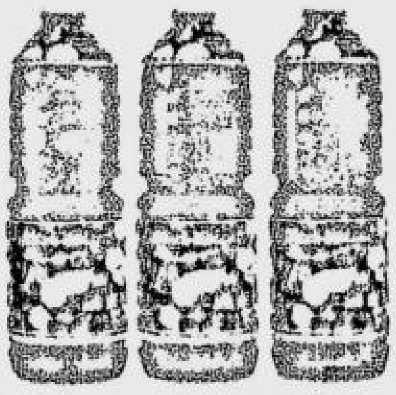
MAYFAIR
Eggheads Milk Chocolate Candy
25's

TLC PRICE
P10^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price 11.50

JUMBO
Juice Drink
- Orange
- Apple

250 mL

TLC PRICE
P4^{00}/ea.
Reg. Price 4.25



NUTRI-LICIOUS
Calamansi Concentrate
1 L

TLC PRICE
P129^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price144.75

TANG
Powdered Juice Drink
- Guyabano
- Pomelo

500 g

TLC PRICE
P35^{25}/ea.

CALI
Shandy In Can
- Regular
- 10
- Ice

330 mL

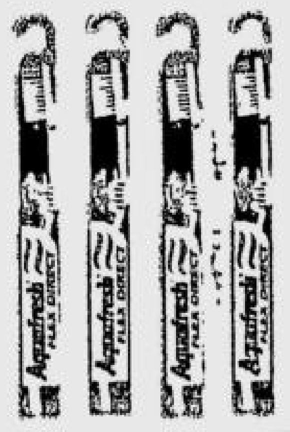
TLC PRICE
P12^{25}/can

TORRES 10
Brandy
1 L

TLC PRICE
P454^{50}/btl.
Reg. Price 479.50

BACTIDOL
Antiseptic Mouthwash
120 mL

TLC PRICE
P107^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price 125.75



AQUAFRESH
Flex Direct Toothbrush
- Soft
- Medium

TLC PRICE
P68^{00}/ea.
Reg. Price 71.75

ESKINOL
Master Facial Cleanser For Men
- Clear

135 mL

TLC PRICE
P30^{00}/ea.
Reg. Price 31.75

SUNSILK
Nutrient Shampoo
- On Selected Variants

100 mL

TLC PRICE
P38^{75}/ea.

CREAMSILK
Hair Conditioner
- On Selected Variants

200 mL

TLC PRICE
P66^{50}/ea.

BENCH
Fix Hair Gel
- Extra Shine
- Normal Hold
- Strong Hold

135 g

TLC PRICE
P54^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price 62.75

DIAL
Deodorant Soap
- All variants

382 g (4.5 oz) / 3's

TLC PRICE
P92^{75}/pk.
Reg. Price 109.75

FA
Shower Gel
- All Variants

250 mL

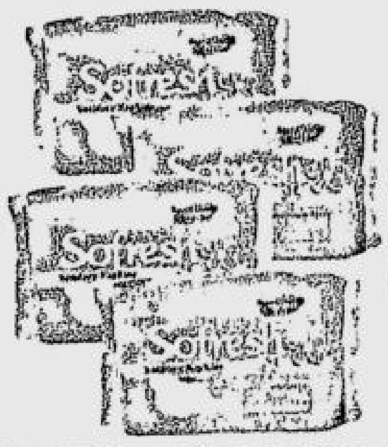
TLC PRICE
P73^{75}/ea.
Reg. Price 82.75

NIVEA
Body Whitening Cream
200 mL

TLC PRICE
P169^{75}/ea.
Reg. Price 178.75

MILCU
Deodorant Powder
80 g

TLC PRICE
P37^{75}/ea.
Reg. Price 39.75



SOFRESH
Sanitary Napkin
- Maxi w/ Wings

8's

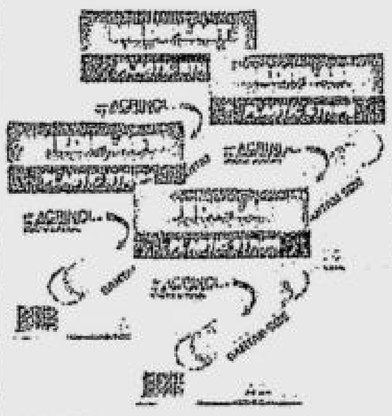
TLC PRICE
P23^{00}/pk.
Reg. Price 25.00

CARESS
Basic Unisex Adult Diapers
10's

TLC PRICE
P163^{00}/pk.
Reg. Price 171.75

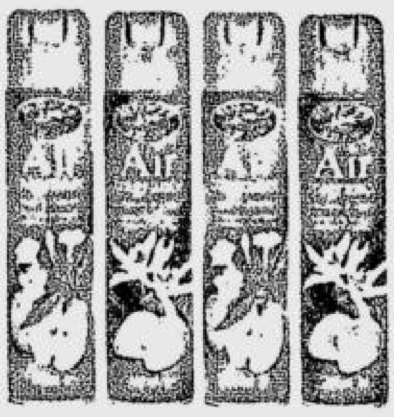
SANICARE
Bathroom Tissue
2 Ply
9's

TLC PRICE
P109^{75}/pk.
Reg. Price 114.75



MEDIPLAST
Bantam Strip
With Acrinol
25's

TLC PRICE
P20^{00}/pk.
Reg. Price 21.75



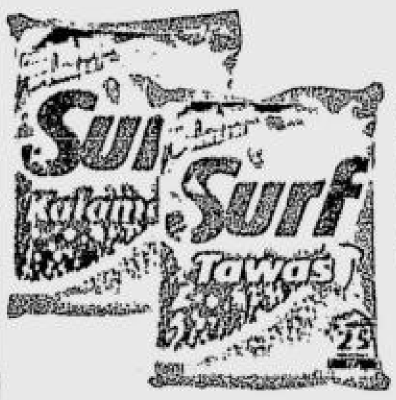
FLOWER SHOP
Air Fragrance
- Strawberry & Orchid
- Apple & Jasmine

300 mL

TLC PRICE
P63^{75}/ea.
Reg. Price 66.75

RAID
Insect Killer
500 mL

TLC PRICE
P132^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price 133.75



SURF
Detergent Powder
- Kalamansi
- Tawas

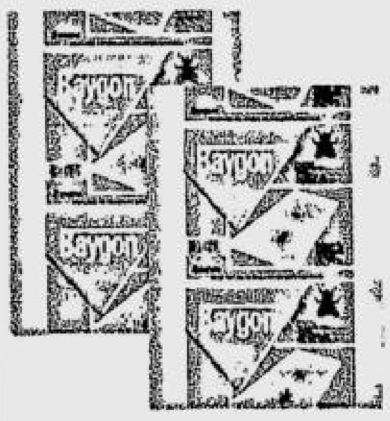
1 kg

TLC PRICE
P46^{75}/ea.

REYNOLDS
Zipper Bags
- Medium

25's

TLC PRICE
P78^{75}/ea.
Reg. Price 85.75



BAYGON
Fly Paper

TLC PRICE
P14^{75}/ea.
Reg. Price 15.75

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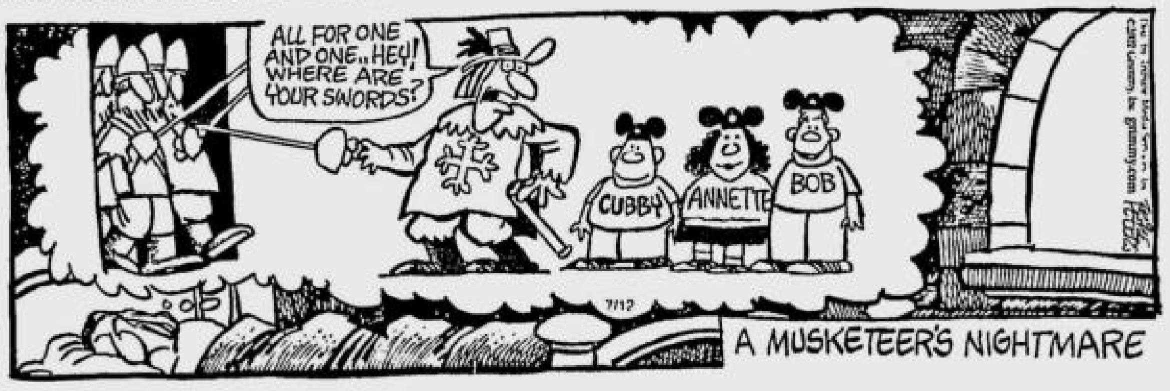
PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO. 2728 SERIES OF 2002

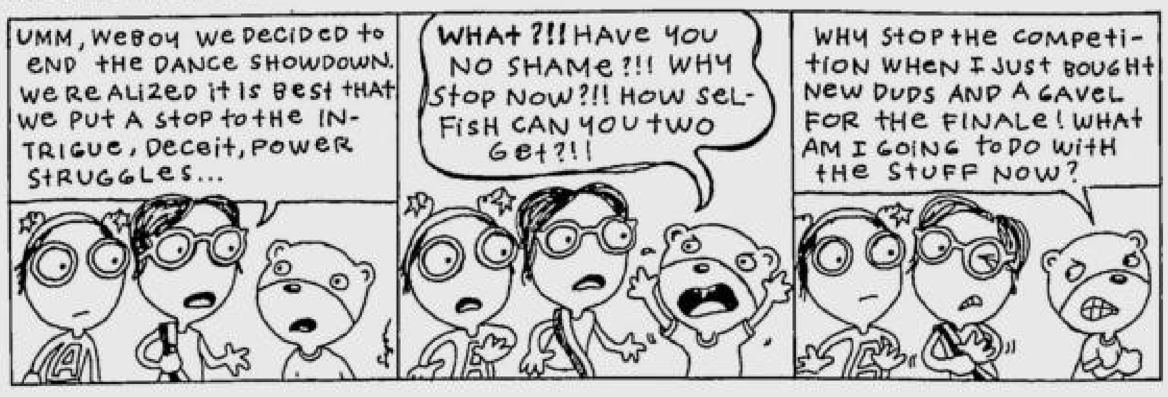
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


ALL FOR ONE AND ONE.. HEY! WHERE ARE YOUR SWORDS?
CUBBY
ANNETTE
BOB
7/12
A MUSKETEER'S NIGHTMARE

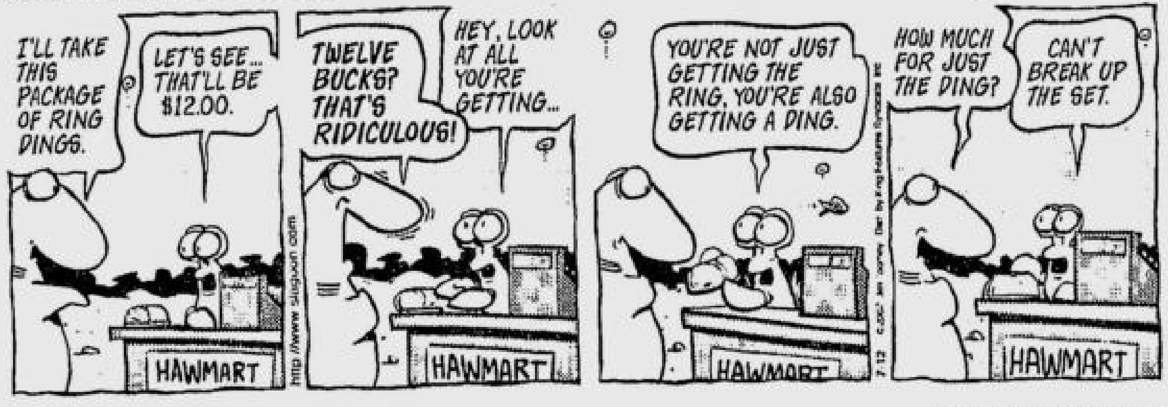
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


UMM, WEBOY WE DECIDED to END the DANCE SHOWDOWN. WE REALIZED it IS BEST tHAT WE PUT A STOP to tHE INTRIGUE, DECEIt, POWER STRUGGLES...
WHAT?!! HAVE YOU NO SHAME?!! WHY STOP NOW?!! HOW SELFISH CAN YOU TWO GET?!!
WHY STOP tHE COMPETItION WHEN I JUST BOUGHT NEW DUDS AND A GAVEL FOR tHE FINALE! WHAT AM I GOING to DO WItH tHE STUFF NOW?

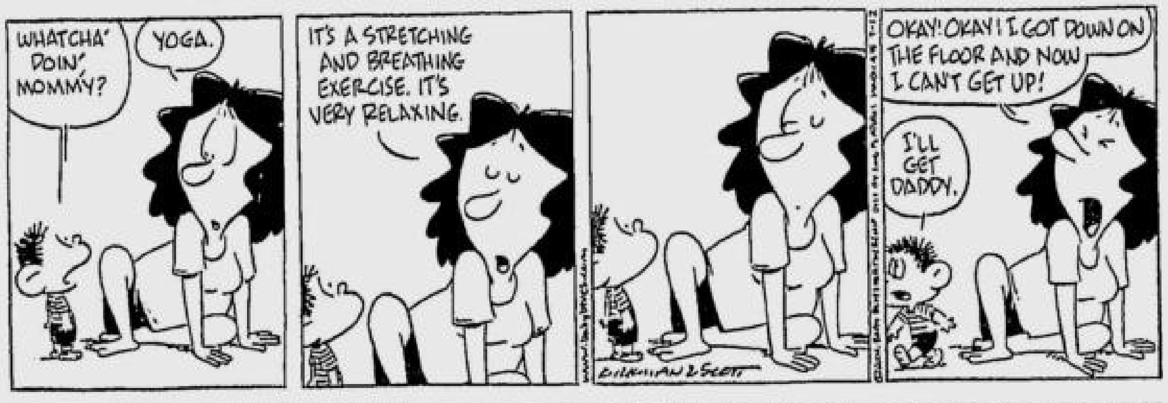
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I'LL TAKE THIS PACKAGE OF RING DINGS.
LET'S SEE... THAT'LL BE $12.00.
TWELVE BUCKS? THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
HEY, LOOK AT ALL YOU'RE GETTING...
YOU'RE NOT JUST GETTING THE RING, YOU'RE ALSO GETTING A DING.
HOW MUCH FOR JUST THE DING?
CAN'T BREAK UP THE SET.
HAWMART
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHATCHA' DOIN', MOMMY?
YOGA.
IT'S A STRETCHING AND BREATHING EXERCISE. IT'S VERY RELAXING.
OKAY! OKAY! I GOT DOWN ON THE FLOOR AND NOW I CAN'T GET UP!
I'LL GET DADDY.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bill Cosby, Richard Simmons, Milton Berle, Kristi Yamaguchi

Happy Birthday: Your imagination will spark a host of creative ideas that you should try to embellish. You will be able to express yourself well and should be able to clear up any issues that arise at an emotional level. It will be important that you don't take on too much, but instead focus on what's most important to you. Your numbers are 2, 13, 28, 34, 42, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put all your troubles behind you and plan to have a fun-filled day. This is a time to put yourself first and give in to your own needs. Travel if the opportunity arises.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone you care about may have disappointed you unintentionally. Don't be too hard on him or her. Your logical approach to life is being undermined by your emotions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can form a solid partnership today if you are honest about your intentions. New developments will occur in causes you're involved in.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make money through your own creative efforts. Take the time to talk to someone who might show an interest. Advancement and potential opportunities could be yours if you make your move.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will have everyone listening to and watching you today. You can entice others to join you in whatever you want to do. Don't forget about the people who have supported you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may have to decipher what it is that someone is trying to tell you. Someone you are dealing with will be evading issues that must be brought out into the open. If logic doesn't work, take another approach.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You have so much to offer if you get involved in a worthy cause. Being lazy might be tempting today but you will end up missing out on meeting someone interesting. Get out and make friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): This may be a difficult day for you emotionally. If someone isn't being as responsive as you would like him to be, don't fret. If you can learn something new, you will have more to contribute to your partnership.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your quick actions and love of adventure will draw others toward you. You will be in a social mood and should attend events that will provide you with the excitement you are looking for.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Focus on moneymaking deals and you will feel happy when the day ends. You can make financial gains through property or small business ventures. Minor health problems may surface.

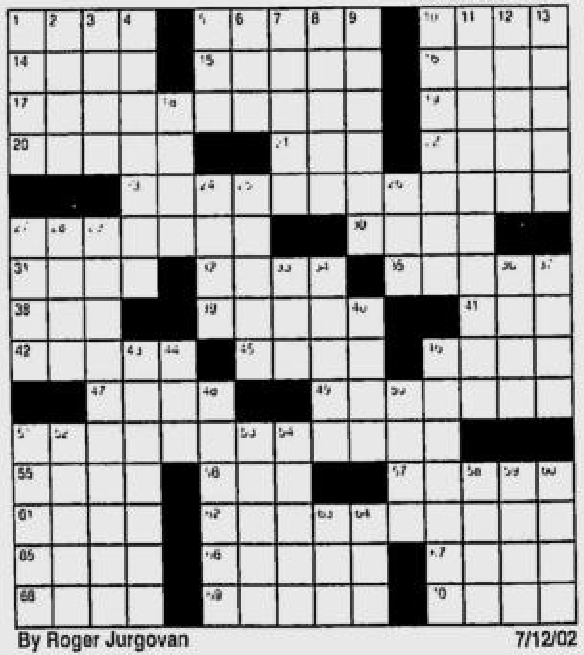
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may be questioning the way you feel about the different people in your life. Take a fresh approach to the way you deal with others and you'll probably get a much better response.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have plenty of energy when it comes to getting ahead. You'll impress others with your ability and dedication. Mix business with pleasure if at all possible.

Birthday Baby: Restlessness and aggressive behavior will result if you don't channel your energy wisely. You will thrive on using your brain.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

7/12/02

ACROSS

1 Remain undecided
5 Fischer's game
10 Filly's mom
14 Seethe
15 Principal artery
16 TV host Trebek
17 Special Forces hostess?
19 In real time
20 __ Haute, IN
21 Pool stick
22 Lulu
23 Souped-up antique?
27 Roman magistrate
30 Work hard
31 Clods
32 Approach
35 Burning crime
38 Former Bruin Bobby
39 Monica of the courts
41 Spanish article
42 Bosc and Anjou
45 Cleopatra's river
46 Dotted cubes
47 Repast
49 Exposes to oxygen
51 Surgical delivery picture?
55 Pro __ (in proportion)
56 Gladiator's 56
57 Courageous
61 Wanes
62 Excellent steaks?
65 Lion's fare
66 Unobstructed
67 Singles
68 Strays
69 Regretful
70 Slight

DOWN

1 H.S. jr.'s exam
2 Back of a major?
3 __-do-well
4 Atypically small ones
5 Entertainer Calloway
6 Monopolize
7 Conductor Leinsdorf
8 Swagger
9 Stephen King novel, "__ Lot"
10 Stench
11 Fashionable astronaut's outfit?
12 Make merry
13 Wield
18 Track gathering
24 Charged particles
25 Color of envy
26 End of pay?
27 Info
28 Uncommon
29 Ski lift to a chalet?
33 __ Baba
34 Take it easy
36 A single time
37 Highland negatives
40 Vaticinator
43 Selects new players
44 Used chairs
46 Barracks' leisure space
48 Fragrant flowers
50 Actor/director Ellis
51 __ fraiche (dessert topping)
52 Cavalry sword
53 Convex molding
54 San Fran pro
58 Author Tyler
59 Swerve
60 Latin being
63 Corn unit
64 Attempt

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

B	E	R	R	A	■	A	H	S	■	K	A	A	B	A
O	N	E	A	L	■	P	O	E	■	A	L	L	E	N
B	E	N	J	I	■	P	I	E	■	R	E	A	D	Y
B	R	E	A	K	F	A	S	T	C	L	U	B	■	■
E	G	G	■	E	A	R	T	H	A	■	T	A	B	S
D	Y	E	D	■	R	E	S	E	N	T	■	M	O	A
■	■	■	R	E	E	L	■	S	E	A	B	A	S	S
N	A	K	E	D	■	■	■	■	■	L	U	N	C	H
I	L	L	W	I	L	L	■	A	R	C	S	■	■	■
B	O	O	■	T	A	I	P	E	I	■	T	B	A	R
S	E	N	T	■	I	N	A	R	O	W	■	E	S	A
■	■	D	I	N	N	E	R	A	T	E	I	G	H	T
T	H	I	B	E	■	A	C	T	■	I	N	G	O	T
H	I	K	E	S	■	G	E	E	■	S	C	A	R	E
E	B	E	R	T	■	E	L	S	■	S	H	R	E	D

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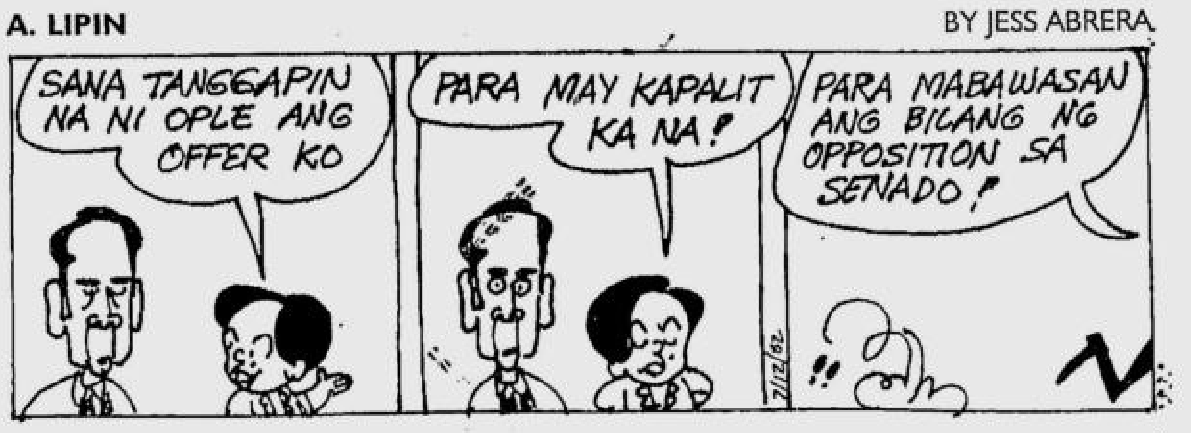
7/12/02

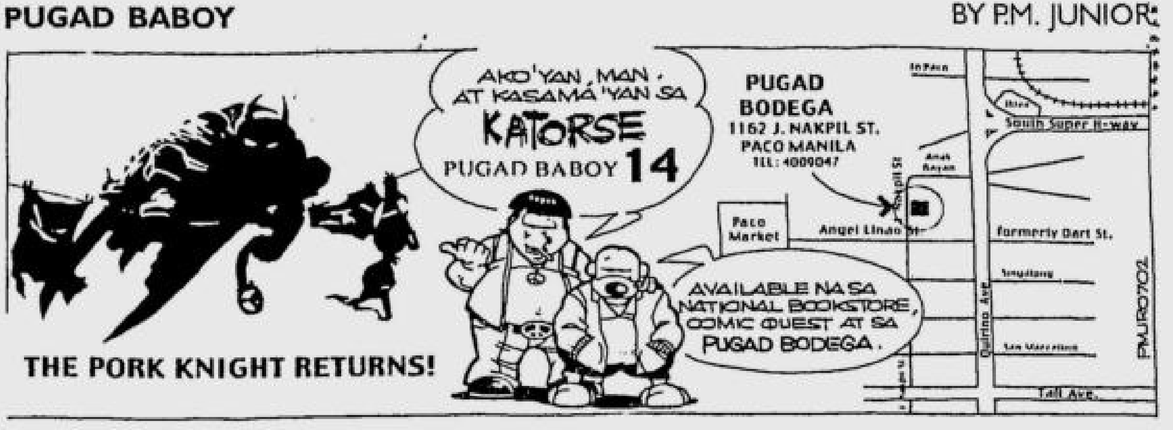
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SANA TANGGAPIN NA NI OPLE ANG OFFER KO
PARA MAY KAPALIT KA NA!
PARA MABAWASAN ANG BILANG NG OPPOSITION SA SENADO!
7/12/02

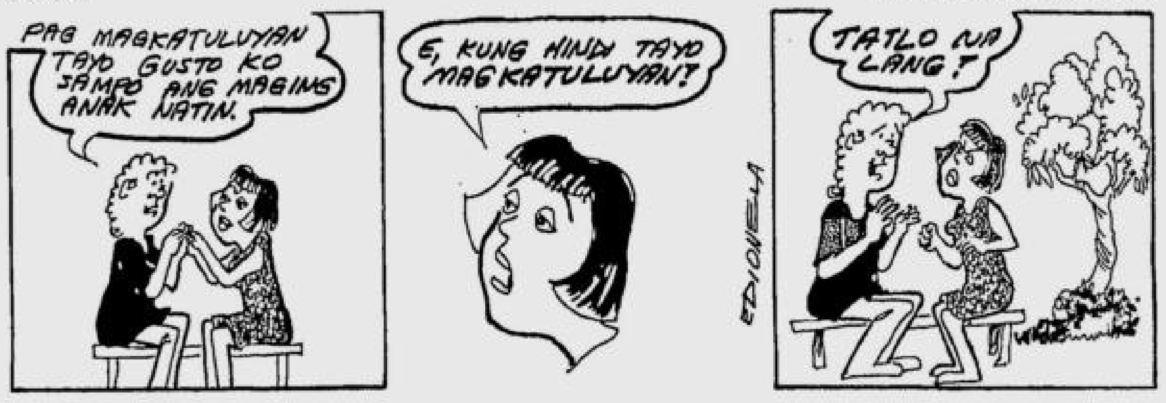
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


AKO'YAN, MAN. AT KASAMA 'YAN SA
KATORSE
PUGAD BABOY 14
THE PORK KNIGHT RETURNS!
PUGAD BODEGA
1162 J. NAKPIL ST.
PACO MANILA
TEL: 4009047
Paco Market
Angel Linao St.
South Super H-way
Formerly Dart St.
Quirino Ave
Taft Ave.
AVAILABLE NA SA NATIONAL BOOKSTORE, COMIC QUEST AT SA PUGAD BODEGA.
PMJR0702

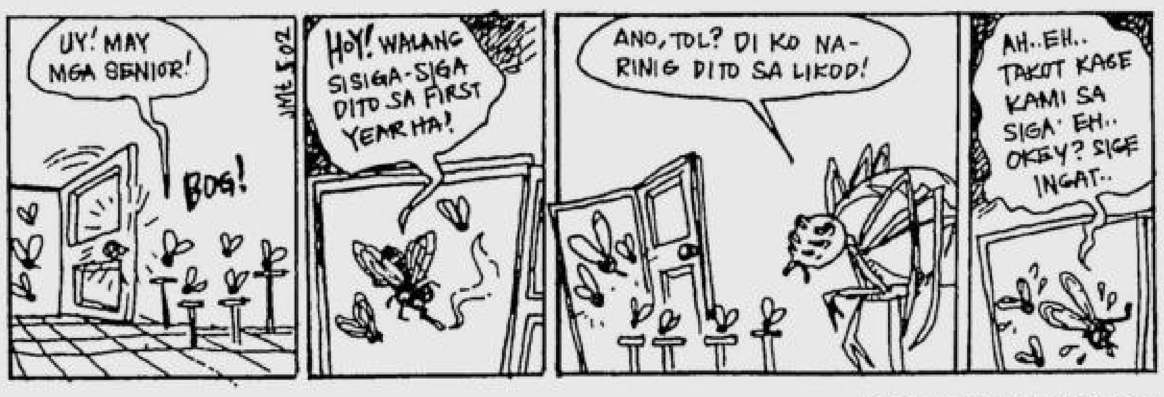
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PAG MAGKATULUYAN TAYO GUSTO KO SAMPO ANG MAGING ANAK NATIN.
E, KUNG HINDI TAYO MAGKATULUYAN?
TATLO NA LANG?
EDIONELA

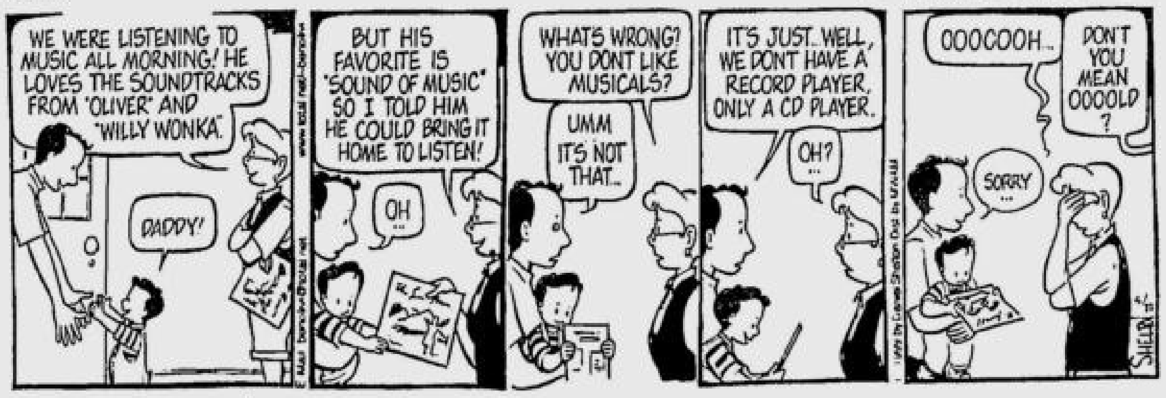
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


UY! MAY MGA SENIOR!
BOG!
HOY! WALANG SISIGA-SIGA DITO SA FIRST YEAR HA!
ANO, TOL? DI KO NARINIG DITO SA LIKOD!
AH..EH.. TAKOT KAGE KAMI SA SIGA' EH.. OKEY? SIGE INGAT..
JMT 5.02

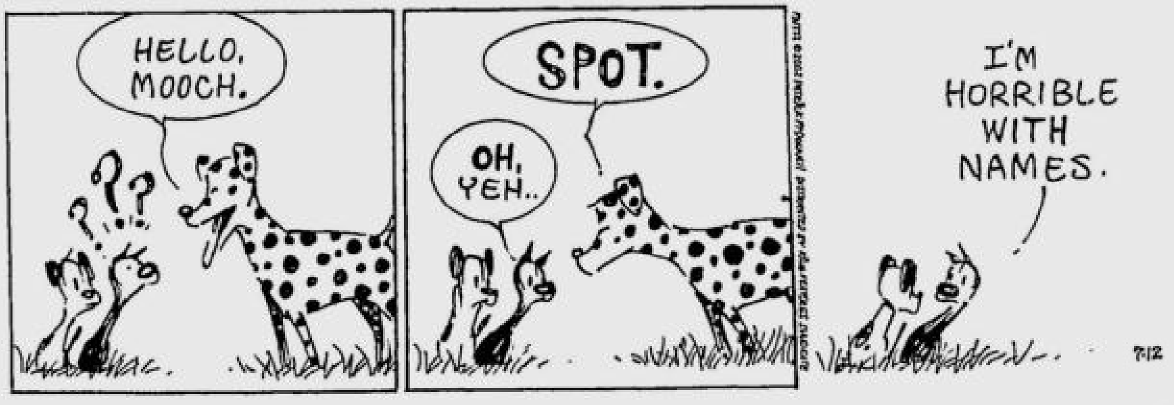
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WE WERE LISTENING TO MUSIC ALL MORNING! HE LOVES THE SOUNDTRACKS FROM "OLIVER" AND "WILLY WONKA."
DADDY!
BUT HIS FAVORITE IS "SOUND OF MUSIC" SO I TOLD HIM HE COULD BRING IT HOME TO LISTEN!
OH ...
WHATS WRONG? YOU DONT LIKE MUSICALS?
UMM IT'S NOT THAT...
IT'S JUST.. WELL, WE DON'T HAVE A RECORD PLAYER, ONLY A CD PLAYER.
OH? ...
OOOCOOH...
DON'T YOU MEAN OOOOLD ?
SORRY ...
SHELTON

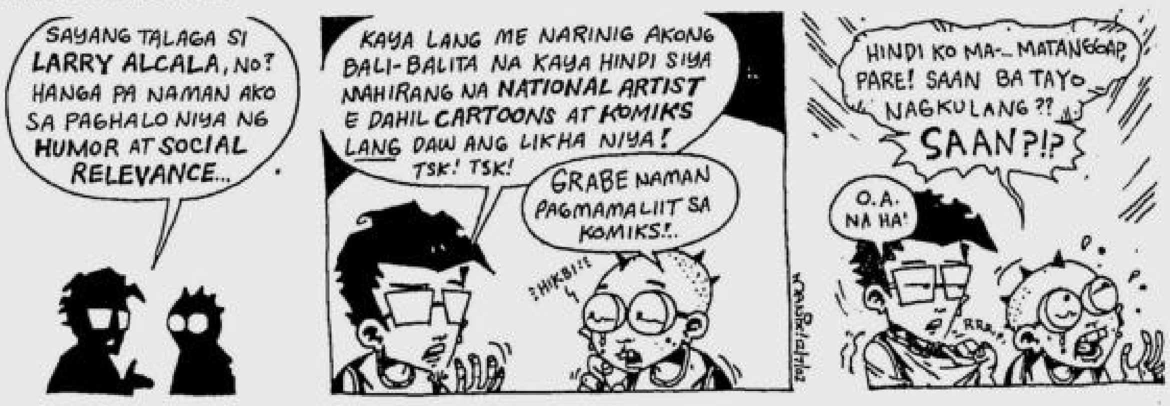
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HELLO, MOOCH.
SPOT.
OH, YEH..
I'M HORRIBLE WITH NAMES.
7-12

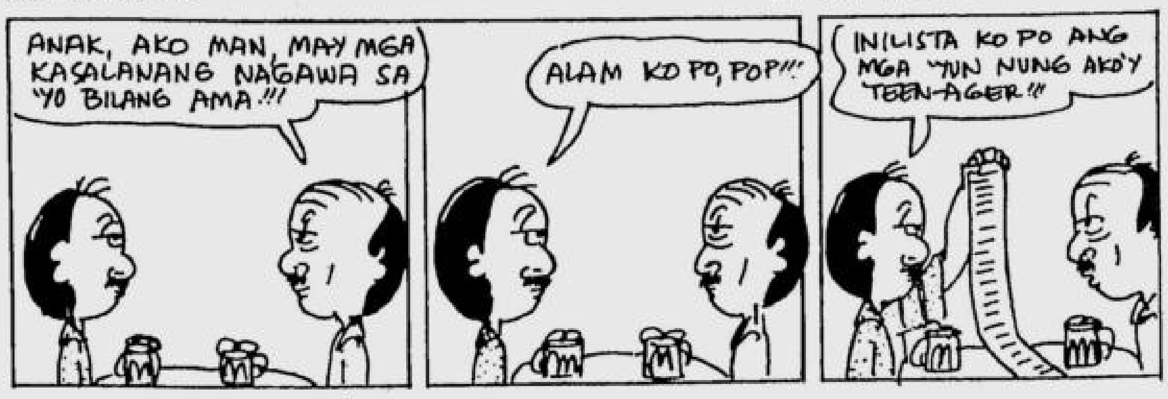
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


SAYANG TALAGA SI LARRY ALCALA, NO? HANGA PA NAMAN AKO SA PAGHALO NIYA NG HUMOR AT SOCIAL RELEVANCE...
KAYA LANG ME NARINIG AKONG BALI-BALITA NA KAYA HINDI SIYA NAHIRANG NA NATIONAL ARTIST E DAHIL CARTOONS AT KOMIKS LANG DAW ANG LIKHA NIYA! TSK! TSK!
GRABE NAMAN PAGMAMALIIT SA KOMIKS!..
HIKBI!
HINDI KO MA-... MATANGGAP, PARE! SAAN BA TAYO NAGKULANG?? SAAN?!?
O.A. NA HA!
RRR..

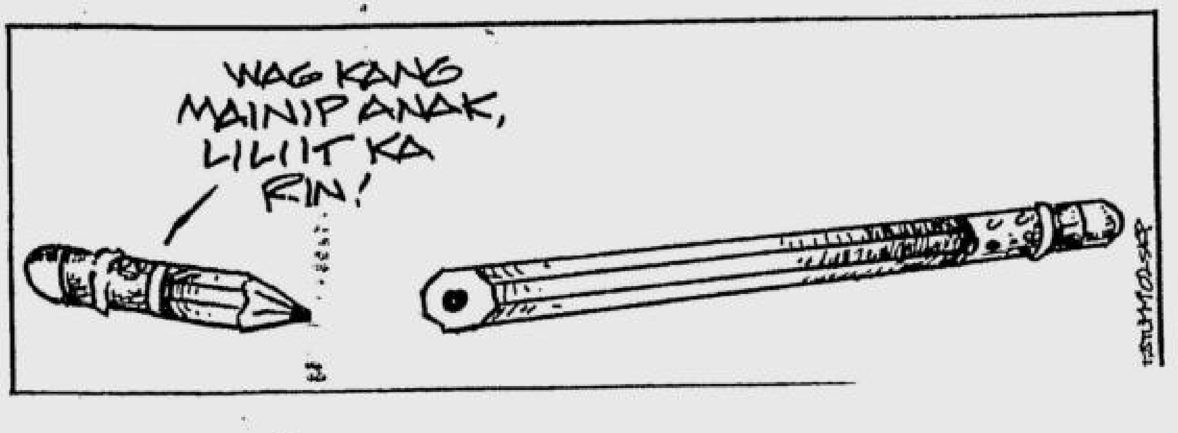
LOVEKNOTS

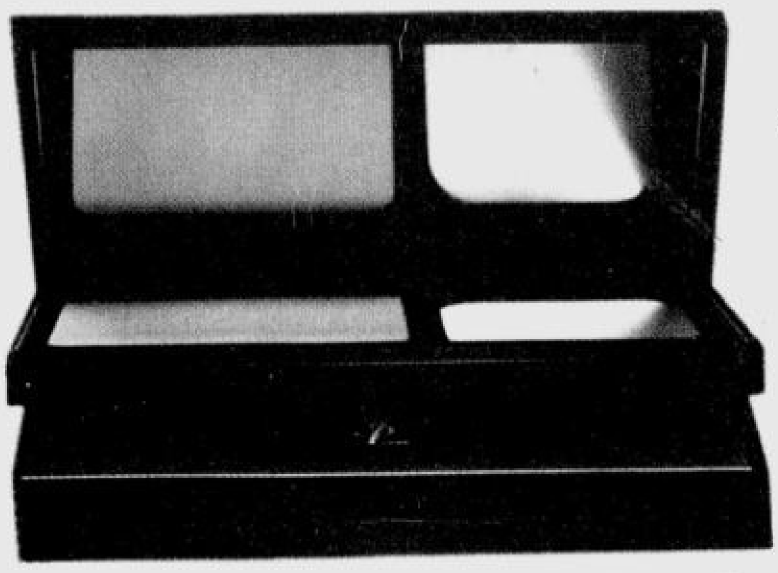
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANAK, AKO MAN, MAY MGA KASALANANG NAGAWA SA 'YO BILANG AMA!!!
ALAM KO PO, POP!!!
INILISTA KO PO ANG MGA 'YUN NUNG AKO'Y TEEN-AGER!!!

TULDOK

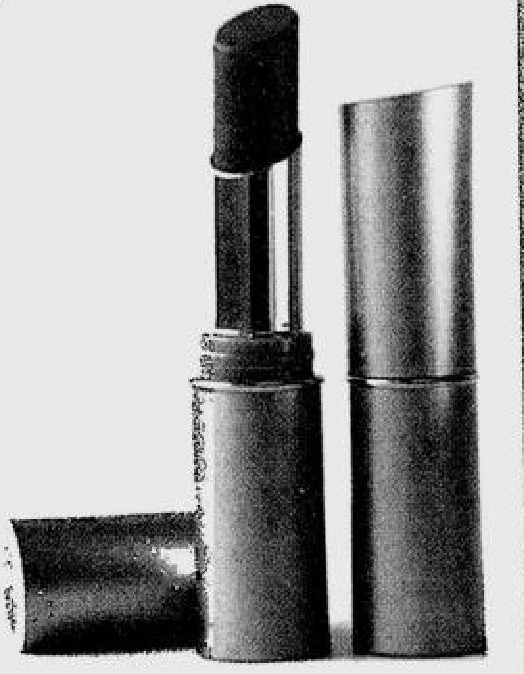
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WAG KANG MAINIP ANAK, LILIIT KA RIN!

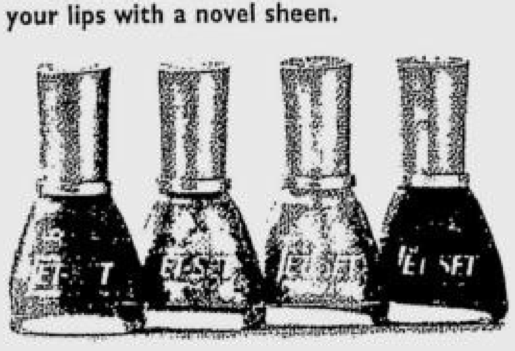


TEINT Compact Matité, the new compact foundation from Yves Saint Laurent, is an advanced formula in an ultra-flat refillable compact. Its creamy texture transforms into a powdery veil on contact with the skin. An innovative combination of anti-drying active ingredients ensures an instant moisturizing effect which continues throughout the day and prevents the skin from feeling tight whatever the weather.

L'ORÉAL Paris invents Invincible, an incredible comfort lipstick that doesn't dry out your lips and lasts eight hours. Invincible means intense colors that won't change, won't smudge and gives an impeccable satin finish the whole day. The Invincible packaging is patented and innovative, with a semi-slim format offering a better grasp. It is available in twelve new shades.



COLOUR Riche Crystal Shine from L'Oréal combines the fine layer of metals locked into its crystal supports to create a shine with the clarity of crystal and the reflective properties of metal. The result is a brilliant metallic crystal reflection that makes your lips take on a truly sensational shine. Available in precious reds that coat your lips with a novel sheen.



NEW Jet-Set is the nail varnish for women without a minute to spare. Guarantees a flawless finish with just one coat, it dries in less than one minute. L'Oréal Paris has created nine new shades so women can match their nail color to any outfit. Hands become more elegant in the New Jet-Set.

'Pure' cosmetics

"CHELOU" is Hebrew for "pure." The word describes AIA's Chelou Two-Way Cake Foundation.

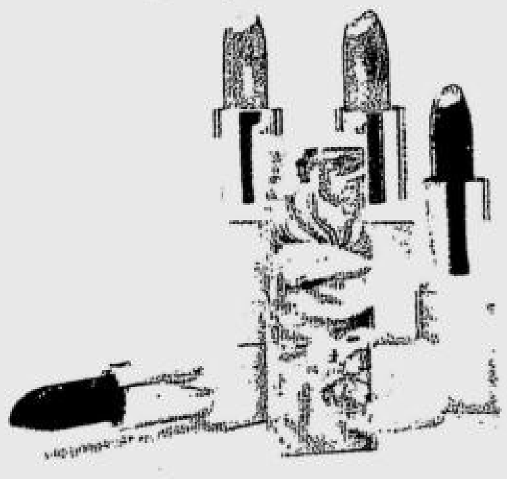
There are many reasons Chelou is called "two-way." First, it serves as a foundation and pressed powder in one.

There are also two ways to apply Chelou. For fuller coverage, Chelou can be applied with a wet sponge and swept evenly across the face. If one prefers a sheer or natural effect, Chelou can be applied using a dry sponge.

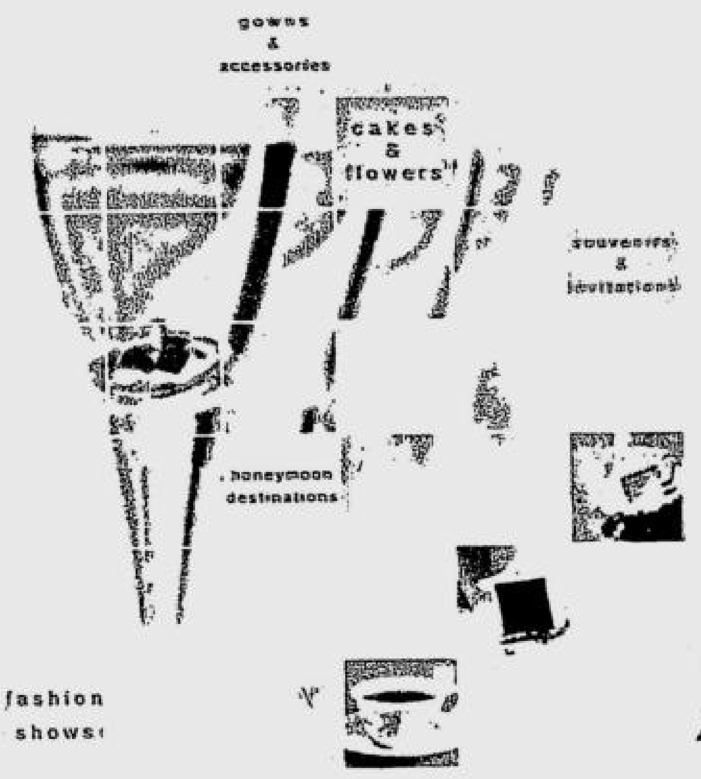
While giving the face a glowing and smooth exterior, underneath, Chelou moisturizes the skin effectively with squalene and shields the skin from ultraviolet rays with micro-fine titanium dioxide.

Chelou is available only at AIA Hinoki Clinical. Call 726-070 or e-mail aia@I-next.net.

TEEN POWER. These are the girls of Avon's Teen Advisory council, students who were chosen out of hundreds of applicants. Their first project is the News Poster which will be put up in selected schools in Metro Manila.



VMV Hypoallergenics presents Luminescence lipstick and VMV Skin Care. Luminescence features eight shades which are skin-safe, hypoallergenic, 100 percent fragrance-free and non-comedogenic. On the other hand, VMV Skin Care keeps your skin look amazing even in its most natural state. And taking care of your skin takes all of five minutes. That's not bad considering your skin care regimen gives you a lifetime of clear, healthy, perfect skin in return.



Love is in
the Fair

You are invited to experience the exquisite details of gowns and cakes, flowers and invitations in one of Manila's finest exhibits. Set a date for a rendezvous and savor the romance with classic creations for weddings and debuts to the season's latest trends by the country's most sought after designers.

Bed and Bath Fashion Show
(by invitation only)
6:00 p.m. July 12, 2002
Manansala E

Bride and Deb's Fashion Show
7:00 p.m. July 13, 2002
Atrium, 4th Level

with designs from

-Eddie Baddeo -Joel Bautista -Cecilio J. Bertumen
-Susie Bonaobra -Leonard Co -Mel Vergel De Dios
-Miles Gueta -HT Bride & Groom -Peter Lim -Jojo Lloren
-Randy Ortiz -Frederick Peralta -Noe Reyes
-Paul Rivera -Fanny Serrano -Edwin Uy

Directed by: Rico Reyes Ang

MANILA
GALLERIA SUITES
BEHIND THE SCENE
Kasal.com
TOPSHOP

HOT PICKS!
JULY

STARGIRL
Jerry Spinelli
P 369.00

Stargirl was bold, different, and Leo loved her for it. But the tide of popularity changes, and Leo urges her to become the very thing that could destroy her: normal. A stellar read that celebrates nonconformity and the freedom gained from loving people just as they are.

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS 2002
P 279.00

From the biggest hamburger to the smallest guitar, this updated and revised edition is crammed with facts, feats, and amazing records!

1ST TO DIE
James Patterson
P 319.00

Newlyweds in San Francisco are being murdered. Now, four women friends—a homicide inspector, a medical examiner, an assitant D.A., and a crime reporter—try to outwit and catch the most terrifying killer ever imagined.

BLACK HOUSE
Stephen King & Peter Straub
P 319.00

In this long-awaited sequel to *The Talisman*, Jack Sawyer is back to solve gruesome murders that lead him back to the Territories and his own hidden past.

DISNEY'S STORYBOOK COLLECTION
Volume 2
P 655.00

A wonderfully illustrated collection of 16 stories to read over and over again! Bring home the magic of Disney!

THE MAGIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Nigel Hicks
P 399.00

Packed with photographs and informative text, this is your guide to the people and places that constitute the island paradise we call home!

LEAP OF FAITH
Danielle Steel
P 319.00

From her idyllic life in a French château to her painful years under the care of a resentful aunt, Marie-Ange must now face the dark secrets of her marriage and take a leap of faith into freedom.

AMERICAN GODS
Neil Gaiman
P 319.00

From the creator of the *Sandman* series comes a haunting story of Shadow and his dark journey into myth, reality, and the past that will never die.

YOGA FOR TODAY
Suzanne Pattinson
P 599.00

An ideal guide for yoga fans! Includes a manual with 80-full color photographs, a CD of relaxing music, and a canvas yoga belt to help with the more difficult postures.

MASSAGE MADE EASY
Joanna Trevelyan
P 599.00

A step-by-step guide to getting that massage technique down! Includes a manual with 100 full color photographs, a CD of soothing music, and two bottles of essential oils.

TODDLER'S PLAY AND LEARN: ABC
Roger Priddy & Andrea Pinnington
P 339.00

A delightful book to heighten your toddler's senses! Interactive with touch-and-feel and lift-the-flap portions.

Hot Book of the Month!

SAYAW: PHILIPPINE DANCES
Reynaldo Gamboa Alejandro & Amanda Abad Santos-Gana
P 1,600.00

This lavishly illustrated book surveys dances in the Philippines—from the dances of the ethnolinguistic groups to the current ballroom dance craze. Tracing the progression of dance in the country, this book is a must for everyone who enjoys the beauty of our nation's dances.

National Book Store
www.nationalbookstore.com

LIP BALM. Have fun with the different teen colors of Human Face's Lip Balm.

LIP LINER PENCIL. Add definition to your lips with Human Face's soft-textured Lip Liner Pencil.

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w/ Free check-up
FACIAL w/ SEAWEED MASK...P330.00
w/ Free Check-Up
WARTS TREATMENT..............P385.00
SKIN PEEL / FOOT SPA / BLEACHING / SKIN WHITENING
WAXING / BODY SCRUB / EYEBROW - EYELINER TATTOO
PERM EYELASHES /NON-SURGICAL FACE LIFTING
W/ COLLAGEN MASK / POWER PEEL
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• FESTIVAL MALL ALABANG / 771-0448
• B.F. HOMES PARANAQUE / 8253998
• SM CITY PAMPANGA / (045) 9612150
• SM CITY BACOOR / (046) 9706322
• PARK SQUARE 2/ 817-8135
• SM CITY NORTH EDSA /9203152
• SM CITY FAIRVIEW / 9352875
• SM SOUTHMALL / 8003291
• SM MEGAMALL / 6365589
• SM CITY MANILA / 5275806
• ROBINSON'S GALLERIA/ 687-7710
• TIMOG AVE./ 926-7279

A face both human and divine

THE NEWEST face in the block belongs to Isabella Ana Estella, the new Human Face image model. Human, the country's leading alternative lifestyle store, showcases a cosmetic line for the younger hip set. From shimmering loose face powder and dual eye shadow to lipstick and fruity flavored lip balms.

Isabella's face is so versatile and ideal for Human Face. "I'm bubbly, down-to-earth and I love fashion," she explains when asked why she thinks she was chosen.

Young and petite, Isabella has charm, an active, quirky imagination and an innate intelligence. She is precocious without being condescending, extraordinarily pretty without being intimidating.

Discovered when she was only 6 years old, Isabella had her debut in a fast-food commercial. Now a seventh grader, she has proven herself quite well-rounded. At such a tender age, she is already adept in the arts and sports.

Aside from doing television and print ads, she has appeared in Repertory Philippines' "Annie." She also won first place in an inter-school painting competition. And the girl can kick a soccer ball and even got a medal for it.

"I love to act and sing. I love theater," she says. "It's a nice experience and I get to meet lots of new people." This early, she has already expressed a desire of enrolling at a prestigious performing arts school in New York.

Unlike most kids her age, she actually enjoys going to class and says reading, language and math are her favorite subjects. Isabella is the vice president of her school's student council and assistant editor of its newly established paper.

The Human Face cosmetic line features Birthday Cake (blue plus silver), Tiramisu (brown plus cream) and Jelly Baby (plum plus pink) for the Dual Eye Shadow. The eye shadows (P125 each) combine light, for emphasizing features, and dark colors, for contouring, to give your eyes definition.

Other delicious must-haves are the eye shadow pencils (Sorbet for blue, Gelato for brown, and Yogurt for lilac) in unique, creamy pencil form for easy and controlled application (P120 each). For added definition to your eye area, there's the eyebrow pencil with brush (P85). It is especially designed to be soft-textured for smooth and easy application.

Human Face also has its own gently formulated loose powder (P120) that will render your face radiant.

Human Face also has three variants for its lip lines: Chamomile, Chai Spice and Passion Fruit (P95 each). All come in slim packaging and can be used as either lip liner or lipstick. Then there are the lip liner pencils: Ginger and Chili, to add texture and definition to the lips (P85 each). But if it's lip balm you cannot live without, Human Face offers you three choices: Daiquiri, Lemonade and Mint Julep (P69 each).

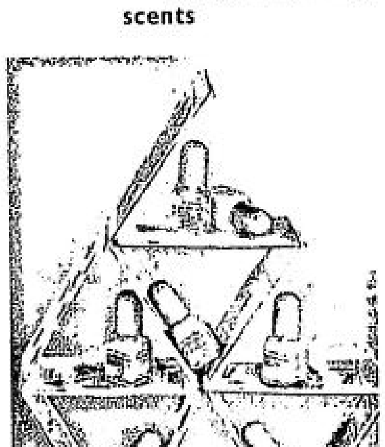
OUTLINE your brows with a playful stroke of Human Face's Eyebrow Pencil.

Human Face also has a whole line of lipsticks with shea butter to hold in and retain moisture, preventing your lips from getting dry. Variants include Black Cherry, Brownie, Caramel, Popsicle, Snow Cone and Sundae (P120 each).

For nails, Human Face introduces its Nail Varnish Set (P89), which comes with four colors you can party and play with.

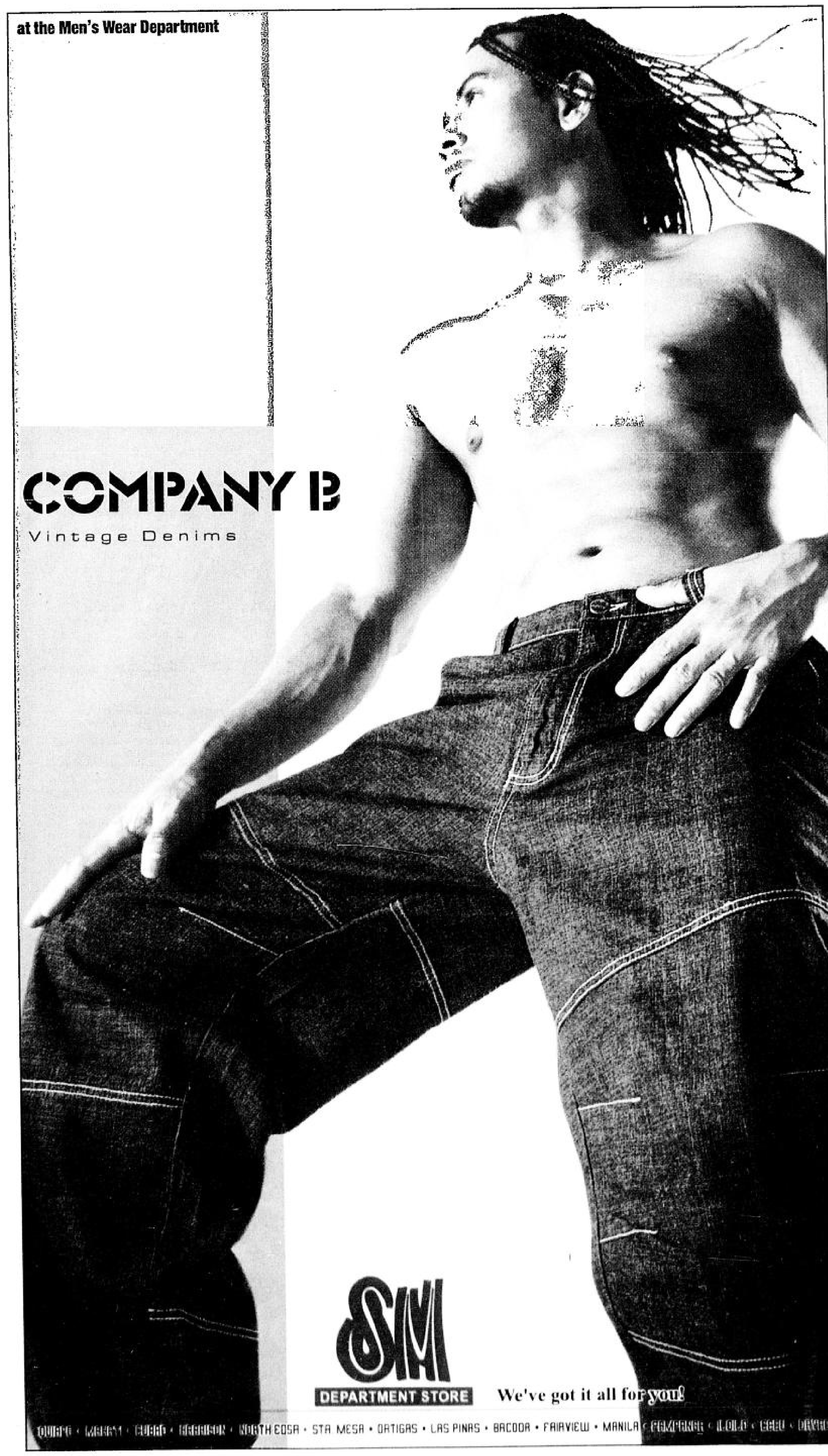
Human Face is available at all Human boutiques.

LIP BALM. Light formula lip balm, non-sticky, with fruity scents



NAIL VARNISH SET. Available in four colors to play with

LIP LINER PENCIL. Soft and creamy texture to define the lips



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FRIDAY,
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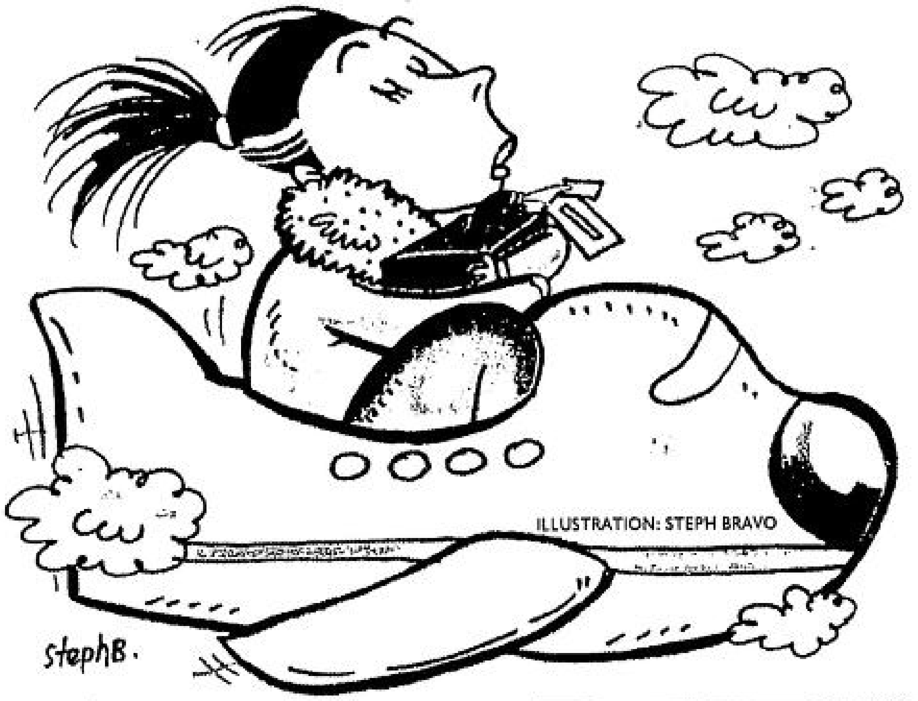

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

The middle-class like us deserves a country that doesn't corrupt our sense of values

It's Pinoy self-bashing time again

I'M BEGINNING to believe we have three seasons—wet, dry and the time to migrate.

The news that one out of five Filipinos, finding the Philippines "hopeless," wants to live abroad, tells you that this urge to up and leave is seasonal. Wanting to give up on ourselves, as a country, is a mood that comes with clockwork regularity, definitely a lot more predictable than the swings of my manic-depressive friends.

LIFE-STY

Thelma Sioson San Juan

Last year when I wrote on "to migrate or not"—what I perceived to be some people's dilemma or mindset then—I got eye-opening feedback, most of it a litany of what disgusts people about their country, especially the young who felt their future wasn't here. Yet I realized that after venting their exasperation, they said that given a choice, they'd rather stay home, "be home."

The litany is a tiring refrain. As a people, we have turned self-bashing into an art, and self-medication into an even better art, fine-tuned each time we come home from a trip abroad, compare worlds, and ask why we can't be as good. Badmouthing ourselves—to ourselves and foreigners alike—has become like a muscle twitch, a tic, and masochism has turned into a therapy of sorts. Odd. Then in the same breath, we rattle off resolutions of our problems as a people that we know, as if by heart, and in the next breath, we break them. Like the Ten Commandments. An odd Catholic country, indeed.

However, last Monday morning, after Sunday's heavy rains, I got an insight which told me we're not as hopeless as we know (know, not think) we are. The insight's actually nothing new, yet it touched me perhaps because it came from, of all people, the pedicurist.

Actually **Baby Lynn** is not a pedicurist; she hasn't progressed to that yet. She's still into doing foot massage, the most basic kind, so she's in-between mastering massage and learning pedicure. That bad-weather Monday morning, I succumbed to an urge to get a "cellophane," manicure and pedicure at **Ricky**'s One-on-One (the only salon I know of that opens at 6 a.m.) before going to the office (now my boss knows) to work on my **Bencab** book proofs and magazine article (that, my boss should know).

As she set out to work on my feet, Baby Lynn talked of how she got home so late from the salon because she got stranded in the floods. Not even the tricycles would give them a ride home. So she walked from SM Centerpoint in Sta. Mesa all the way to Sto. Domingo Church on Quezon Boulevard, in the dark and flooded streets of a metropolis made more intolerable by a corrupt bureaucracy. I waited to hear the usual whine about flooded streets and errant bus drivers, but instead, she said, softly and smiling, "*Masaya naman ho.*"

Huh?! She caught my look. "*Nagkapit-bisig na lang kami habang naglalakad para hindi mahulog sa* manhole (We just locked arms while walking so we wouldn't fall into a manhole)," she said.

With your friends, I asked. No, she said, all strangers, stranded and wanting to get home in one piece that night. Strangers who found safety, comfort and even joy in the moment's united effort. In trying times such as that, they improvised on structures and organizations, and in trademark Filipino-ness, saw humor, if not goodness, in it.

Baby Lynn's experience was so commonplace, yet it showed there's still some value to being a Filipino living—okay, stuck—in his country.

IT'S/ p.F2

Real People. True Stories.

"My job and family keep me 'young on the inside' – on the outside, it's definitely Imedeen! It's not just for your face -- over-all conditioning talaga!"

Zina Rosales,
events planner, mother of two teenagers,
'proud to be vain'

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Ultrasound images of the skin structure: First photo shows photodamaged dermis; second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

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Luxury goods giant gets new CEO

BALLY International has named Marco Franchini CEO and chair.

The appointment of the former Gucci executive represents a new stage in the relaunch that Bally initiated after Texas Pacific Group, a US-based private investment partnership, acquired the brand in November 1999.

Franchini had been a senior executive at Gucci since 1994, first as European retail director and then, since 1999, as general manager for Europe. He played a major role in the extremely successful revamp of the Gucci label.

"After two years of restructuring and the creation of what is essentially a new company, the recruitment of a seasoned, leading executive in the luxury goods sector was necessary to take this project to the next level," said Abel Halpern, managing director at Texas Pacific Group.

From 1984 to 1993, Marco Franchini served in various positions at the luxury goods company Genny Spa (Genny, Complice, Byblos). He began his career at Genny in the administration department and, over the years, served as planning and analysis manager, comptroller, CEO and CFO for the Byblos brand in the US.

Over the past two years, Bally has worked to reposition its brand through a cost-cutting program and the closure of various stores, factories and wholesale accounts. Berlin and Lugano, Switzerland have recently seen the opening of new Bally stores that communicate the fresh image and direction of the company.

In the Philippines, Bally is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. Its outlets can be found at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, Glorietta 4 at the Ayala Center, Rustan's Makati, Rustan's Tower and Rustan's Harrison Plaza.

It's Pinoy . . .

From page F1

Last week at Rustan's press lunch with Chanel's managing director based in Asia, **Yves Blouin**, we pressed the Frenchman for reasons a giant fashion house like Chanel remains highly optimistic about an insignificant market like the Philippines. "You are a nice market," he said.

Now, we've heard all terms to describe a market, but "nice"? He meant the forging of relationships with both business partners and clients here. He hasn't lived in France for the past 10 years, has spent all that time in Asia, now lives in Bangkok and visits Manila regularly. As we expected, he was referring to the people.

I asked a foreign investor, who has a litany of complaints about the way business—or what passes for it—is done with our bureaucracy and about our state of affairs, why he hasn't given up, why he always ends up defending the investment here to his principals. He said he'd tell his board bluntly, "We want Third World opportunities, then be prepared for Third World problems." He'd add that nowhere has he seen a people who've been through a lot and yet can emerge from it smiling—and still have "that sense of joy and romance." (Of course, that must be presuming that the bottom line still holds.) I guess that shows how indescribable and puzzling we are as a people, how we defy classification in both our good and bad traits. For want of a better term, the world (or some inhabitants of it) call us "nice."

But then "niceness" can bring us everywhere, yet also nowhere. We migrate yet bring our addiction to home to wherever we flock to; thus, the "Daly Cities" and "*Adobo* countries" of the world. Do you know that the craving for ABS-CBN's *teleserye* is so great among Filipinos living abroad? (As they say, you can take the Pinoy out of his country but you can't take the Pinoy *teleserye* out of him.)

When the Pinoy migrates, he applies his education, values, skills in his adopted country and enhance these with a sense of discipline and order he could never summon here. I've lost many newspaper colleagues and a few loved ones to the life abroad (for better or for worse), and each time you lose a brilliant mind or lovable relationship to Canada, the US or Australia, you let a part of you go.

It never crossed my mind to work or live abroad. Never will, I guess. But the educated middle-class like us deserves a country, a home, that puts our education to beneficial use, lets us do business on a level playing field, and more important, doesn't corrupt our sense of values but lets it thrive and prevail.

"Nice" is good, but it doesn't build institutions. And it is the strong, tradition-rich, competitive institutions—from the political to the financial—that will give our children an anchor to this country. Strong systems and institutions will not allow the likes of the Abu Sayyafs run us out of business. The kidnapping news alone will not drive away investors (other countries can be as notorious, security-wise); it's the unpredictable playing field and barbaric bureaucracy that do. Marketing hype or image-building alone—for the world market—will not do it for us.

Institutions strengthened for the long haul are what will give our children a sense of home and pride of heritage. I have a son who's gotten the habit of writing a newspaper column, and when I read him whining about the same national irritants I used to write about, the feeling sucks. It's like seeing the "No exit" sign. I want him to see doors opening right here, not "No exit" signs.

By 'dyords'

A GROUP that has made it its mission to give Pinoys a "psyche lift" is the "Ang4" (long evolution from "unforgettable") of **Dyords Javier**, **Pinky Marquez**, **Isay Alvarez** and **Bimbo Cerrudo**. They've been around the world performing in Filipino communities where, each time, they'd feel how homesick Pinoys are and how much they want to remember how it is to feel good about their country. The tours went on for years, when sponsorship wasn't as hard to come by as it is now. This time, however, the group's staying put, doing just good songs in various venues, including Strumms and Conways.

Thursday last week, close friends and family of **Jeannie** and **Sid Goulbourn** gathered in their home to mark the 40th day since their daughter **Natasha**'s death. We prayed the rosary, I didn't stay on for the Mass, but I was able to witness a unique ritual before the Mass.

Sid, Jeannie and daughter **Katrina** lit more than 2,000 candles—tied in four bunches and placed at their doorstep—as the priest led the prayers. The candles were meant to light the way of Natasha beyond this world. That was the first time I witnessed such a ceremony. As all the candles burned, their heat wrapped your face and the air became a mixture of grief and fervent prayer for Natasha and the dear ones she left behind.

Among the guests were **Toni Parsons**, **Eli Pinto** (whose post-Citem days remain hectic and who is due to lecture in Bogota), **Toni Gregory**, Mega's **Sari Yap**, **Gina Lopez**, **Susan Reyes**, who helped Jeannie's sister **Frances** distribute sheets of paper before the Mass, **Francis** and **Maryann Lumen**, and Natasha's friends such as **Ginggay Joven** and her fiancé **Noel de la Merced**. A pleasant surprise was the presence of **Monet Recio Schemm**, who now lives in Rome with husband **Mike** and two kids. The former Louis Vuitton executive took time on her short visit here to condole with bosom friend Jeannie.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

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GOINGS-ON

Calling on illustrators of Nick Joaquin's 'Pop Stories for Groovy Kids'

MUSEO Pambata is calling on Arnel Agawin, Leni Sarte-Gemil and Lydia Ney, illustrators of Nick Joaquin's "Pop Stories for Groovy Kids" published in 1979. Museo Pambata will open an exhibit of their original illustrations on July 16 in celebration of the 19th National Children's Book Day. These illustrations were donated to the museum by the late Doreen Fernandez. Call Nina Yuson at 400-7558.

PARENTING WORKSHOP. Center for Family Ministries (Cefam) is offering an annual two-day parenting workshop "Positive Empowered Parenting of Kids" (Pep-Kids) for parents of children aged 1-12 years old on July 20 and 27, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Cefam Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC. Call 426-4289 to -92.

BUSINESS FORUM. The Tower Club, the country's premier, by-invitation-only business and social club, will host a business forum for its members and their guests at Taipan today, 2:30-5 p.m. The forum will introduce "Aikido Principles in Business," applicable to daily living at home and at work. Aikido is a form of martial arts that developed into a philosophy. In business, its essential principles have been successfully used in attaining one's constructive leadership power, ability toward fostering collaborative processes and conflict resolution. Guest speaker is Dr. Mark Crapo, an Aikido master for almost 30 years and chief instructor of the Aikido Institute of Michigan. Call 885-7085 for registration.

SEMINAR. Multi-awarded scientist and businessman Col. Gerry Dango will mount a business seminar dubbed "Starting and Managing a Small Business Successfully" tomorrow at the De La Salle Greenhills, San Juan M.M. The seminar will provide participants both practitioner and beginner, a realistic approach in identifying, analyzing and exploiting business opportunities. Call 722-94-27, 721-2671 or 722-1606.

MEDITATION CLASS. A beginner's session on meditation will be held July 14, 2:30-5:30 p.m., at Sikatuna Village, QC. With a modern psycho-spiritual approach based on "A Course in Miracles," the Level 1 session will teach proper posture, breathing and concentration. Space is limited. Call 925-2795, (0917) 608-9625 or e-mail amelia33@yehey.com.

SEMINAR. ProActive Center for Training is holding a seminar-workshop on restaurant management on July 15-24, 1- 5 p.m., at Bedas Restaurant, C-5, Libis, QC. Call 787-6370.

CONFERENCE. The Philippine Librarians Association Inc. (PLAI) will hold a three-day conference on July 24-26 at the Balay Kalinungan, University of St. La Salle, Bacolod City. The theme is "Transformative Leadership: A Formula for Professionalism and Excellence in Librarianship." Call 526-8295 or fax 525-0432, telefax 931-5966 or 524-9740.

ANIMAL SHOW. Join "Rainin' Cats & Dogs: Adopt a Cat, Adopt a Dog" on July 20 at the South Court and Garden Area, Powerplant Mall in Rockwell, Makati. Activities include: Dog Specialty Show at 11:30 a.m.; Animal Mascot Show, 12:30 p.m.; Dog Hairstyles and Grooming Demo, 1:30 p.m.; Cartoon Caricature, 2 p.m.; Cats and Dogs Parade, 3 p.m.; PinoyPet.com launch, 4 p.m.; and Celebrity Cats & Dogs Fashion Show, fun games and activities, 5 p.m. The event is for the benefit of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society.

WORKSHOP. The Center for Arts Foundation, Inc. announces its free registration for voice and acting/theater arts workshops. The workshop is open to all aged 6-65 years old. Workshop will start in August. Classes are offered on weekend schedules which are specially designed for students and those who are working. At the end of the workshops, students will hold their practicum at the Music Museum, Greenhills, San Juan. Call 700-8433 or 727-8347.

EXPO. Filipinos can now enjoy the latest trends in American architectural and interior designs as Expo Manila Design Center opens its doors in the Philippines this July. Expo Manila Design Center is a highly specialized visual design company that centers on the conceptualization and execution of high-end and high quality exterior and interior designs. Call Expo Manila Design Center at 817-7442.

MARTIAL ARTS. Rikard Rosen, managing director of Large International Corporation will have Nemer Hadded, a certified Krav, Maga instructor and president of Active Armour AB in Sweden, to conduct a series of courses in Krav Maga. There are courses available to children and a special course for women. These courses are ongoing at the Self Defense Training Center located at the rooftop of Molave Building, 2231 Chino Roces Ave., Pasong Tamo, Makati City. Call 0918-8494975.

ANNIVERSARY. The award-winning Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company, the country's National Folk Dance company, has scheduled a series of activities to mark its 45th year anniversary. The activities are scheduled to start on Aug 5. On Aug 7, the group will be touring the National Museum. Later in the evening, the Bayanihan will be launching its book "Teaser" at the CCP Little Theater. The alumni will also witness "Balik Pugad," a revival of the Saturday Recital on Aug. 8 at the Philippine Women's University. The highlight of the week-long activities will take place on Aug. 9 at the Century Park Hotel Ballroom. Call 525-1685 or 536-8602.

Jim Paredes leads workshop to tap inner creativity

JIM Paredes is conducting the "Tapping the Creative Universe" workshop, 7-9 p.m. on July 15, 17, 19, 22, 23 and 25 at the Phildra Center, 59 C. Salvador, Loyola Heights, QC.

The cutting edge workshop will help uncover, identify and set aside the blocks that stand in the way of creativity in everyday life. By actively engaging self-defeating attitudes and instilling practices that will help the participant overcome them, the workshop hopes to awaken the inner joy and natural creative impulse each person possesses.

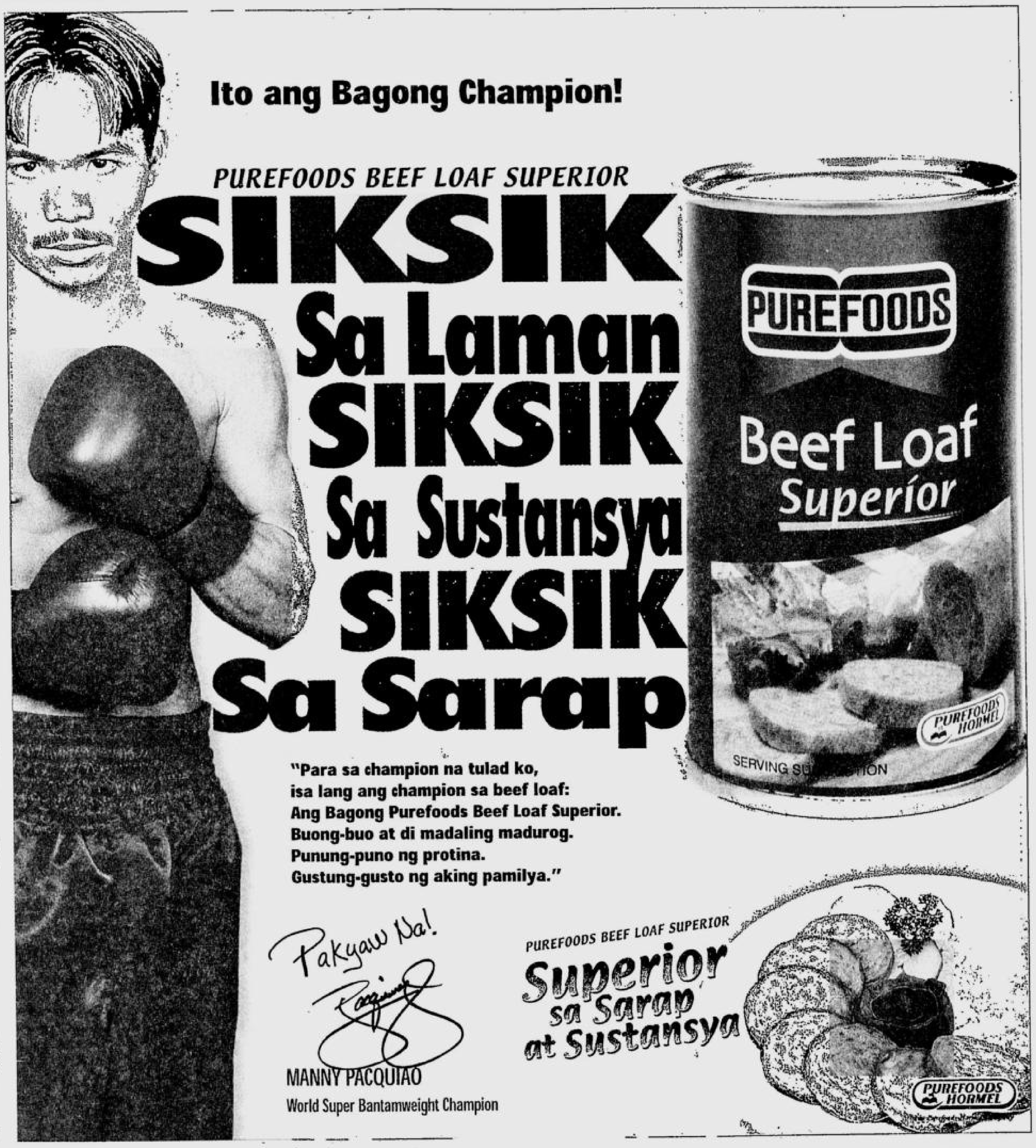
Through six two-hour sessions, the workshop will employ practical techniques developed by Paredes plus those found in "The Artist's Way" (by Julia Cameron and Mark Bryan). These have proven to be effective in dealing with blocked individuals in any profession or situation in life who find themselves in a creative rut. An added plus is Paredes' sharing of his enormous wealth of personal experience as an active multi-faceted artist of more than 30 years.

The sessions will extensively deal with issues of creativity through interactive exercises that will get to the core of the blockage and the introduction of new disciplines and practices for everyday use.

The reason for the large number of sessions is to be able to give the participants the opportunities to apply the lessons to their everyday lives and progress in a guided manner until the practices are successfully instilled. The workshop promises to be fun, exciting, inspiring and substantive.

Paredes is a successful practicing creative engaged in songwriting, record producing, arranging and performing with the durable and talented Apo Hiking Society. He is also a lecturer and has done work for various advertising campaigns. He recently became a published photographer and an author ("Humming In My Universe-Random Takes on Everything" and "Between Blinks"). He is currently teaching at the Ateneo de Manila Communication Arts department.

Workshop fee is P3,000. Call 436-0710/ 426-5375/ 929-0230/ 426-3208.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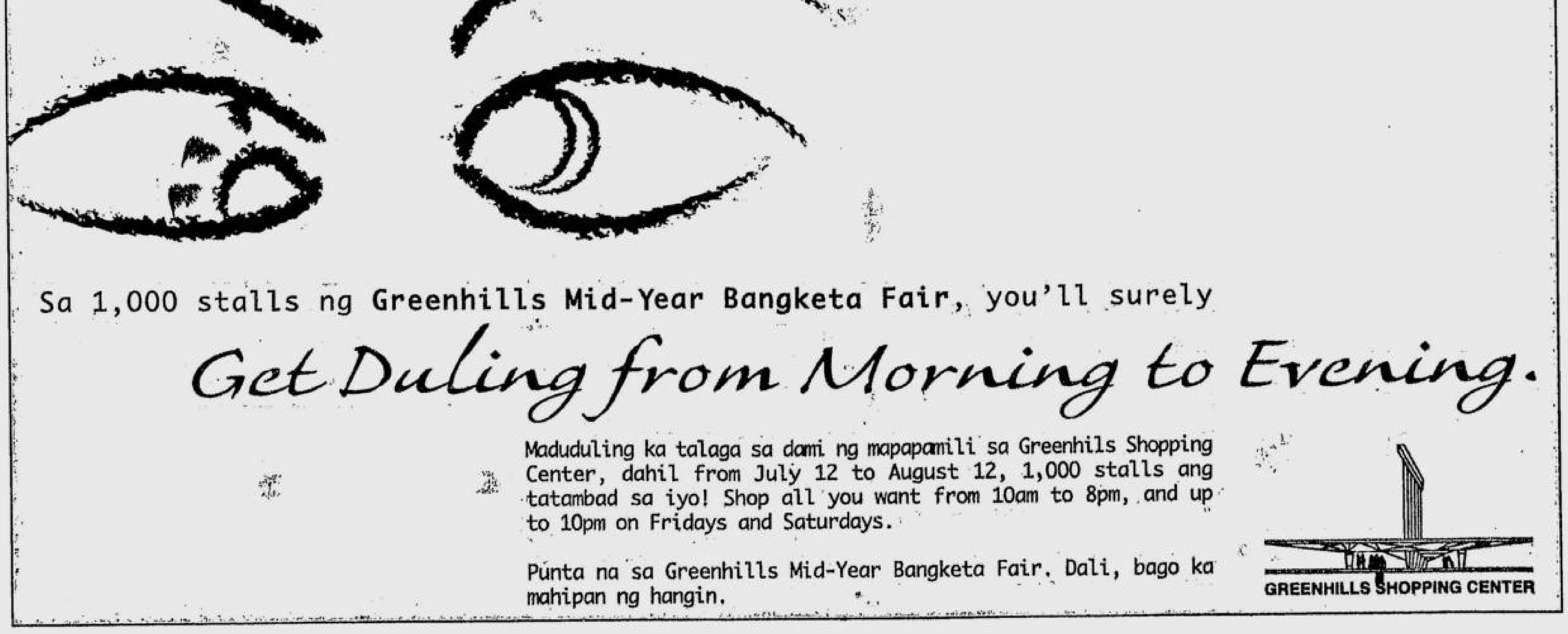
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Punta na sa Greenhills Mid-Year Bangketa Fair. Dali, bago ka mahipan ng hangin.

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER

In celebration of Philippine furniture

THE ARCHITECTURE and design magazine BluPrint marked its third anniversary with an art and furniture charity auction titled "BluPrint Going Thrice: Bid for Art and Design."

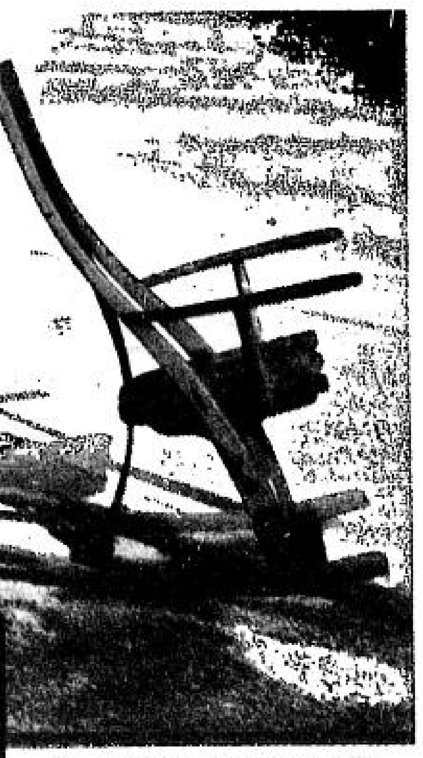
It was a grand gathering of art collectors, renowned artists and designers held at the LKG Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati, recently.

The collection included furniture pieces by Claude Tayag, Benji Reyes, Budji Layug, Ramon Castellanos and Carlo Tanseco.

Reyes' "Tumba Tumba," a variant of the rocking chair, was an ingenuous mix of recycled pieces of Philippine hardwoods: *tindalo* for the backrest; *ipil* for the seat and armrests; *kamagong* for the inlay; *yakal* for the frame.

Tayag's piece, "Pretender to the Throne," might be mistaken for fine sculpture, but it was actually an extraordinary chair of solid *molave* and beeswax finish.

In "Karen," Layug created an armchair in wicker weave, with tapered *tanguile* legs in walnut finish, loose seat cushion and throw pillow. Known for the cool and relaxed ambience of his furniture designs, Layug was committed to using organic forms and Philippine-made materials.



"TUMBA Tumba" by Benjie Reyes

Cutting-edge forms

Movement 8 regulars Carlo Cordaro, Kenneth Cobonpue, Tes Pasola, Tony Gonzales and Ann Pamintuan also donated their award-winning creations for the cause.

Cobonpue, known for his transparent, edgy and modernist forms coupled with indigenous materials and tropical lines, donated his ubiquitous Yin and Yang loveseat.

Another lover of the wiry, the see-through and the avant-garde, Pamintuan donated her curvy Cocoon Chair, a unique exercise in form and structure.

Cebu-Fil Veneer's expat Italian designer Cordaro took a traditional furniture material and process—wood veneer—and translated it into clean, classic forms such as that of his center table, which was also auctioned off.

Gonzales, known for his bold colors and unusual forms and textures, contributed his colorful lamps, while Pasola's ingenious vases made of book-binding paper defied the common notions of the material it used.

Other habitués of the Cebu design world such as Debbie Palao, Luisa Robinson and Rene Ybañez also contributed their works.

Their unique combination of indigenous Filipino materials and cutting-edge forms and lines exuded a brand-new tropical feel.

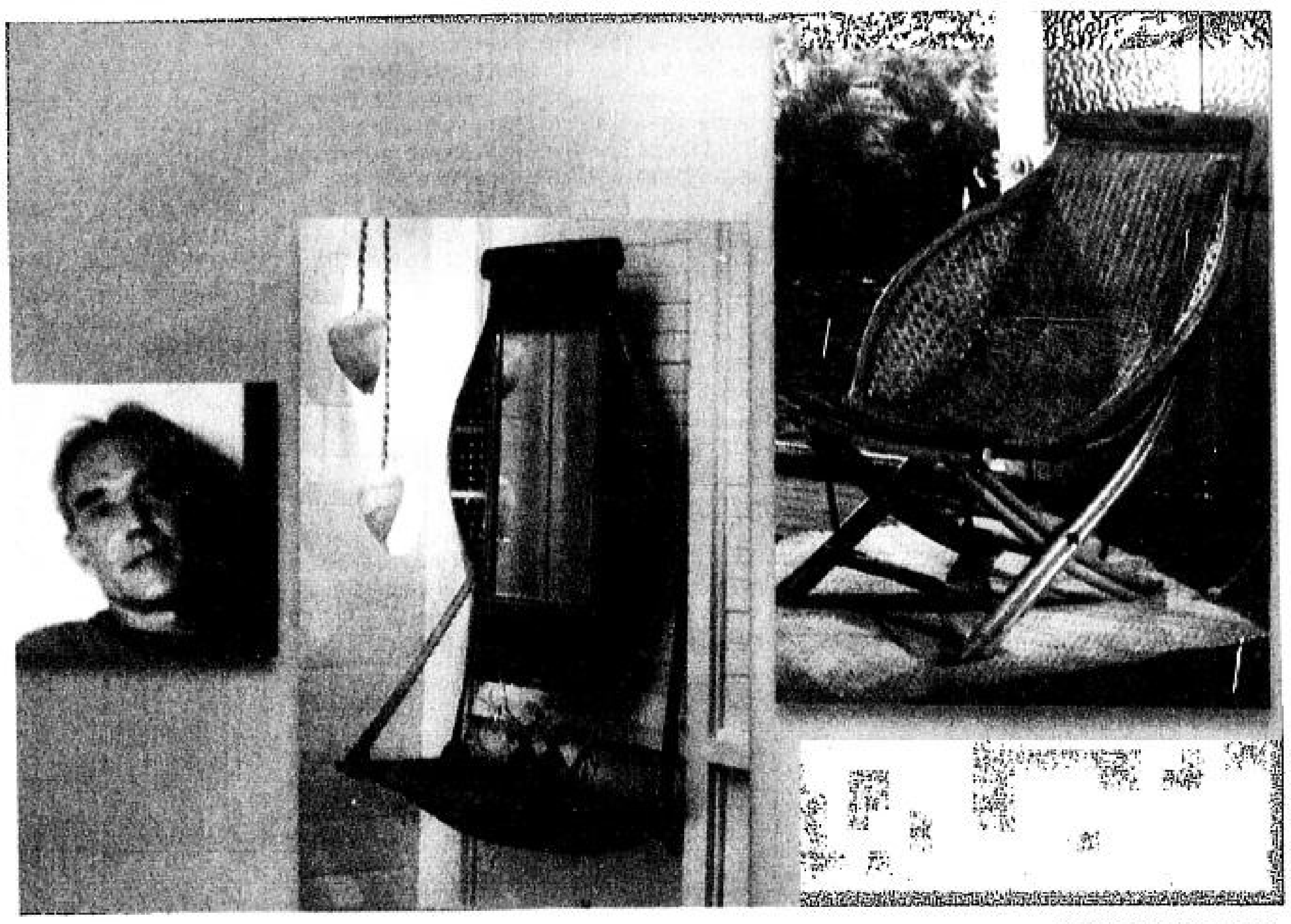
Provincial charm

The "Duyan Sibonga" lounge chair designed by Castellanos of Diseño en Asia would make you think of lazy afternoons and breezy patios perfect for forty winks. Closely resembling a child's cradle or the native *duyan*, the chair was made of rattan, split *sica* and *solihiya* weave with metal bracings at the base.

Other established furniture designers also participated. Enrique Murio of E. Murio brought his own brand of summery rattan furniture to the event, while interior designer Roland Laurena came up with a chic leather armchair perfect for city settings.

Adding a dash of provincial charm were potter-gardener Ugu Bigyan's ceramic, woven and wrought-iron table and chair; and Ricky Baylosis of Riba with a perfectly rustic Ifugao *narra* stool.

Boy from Bacolod Bernie Sason successfully blended homegrown materials with sleek and simple design in his pared-down wood and wrought-iron stool.



"DUYAN Sibonga" by Ramon Castellanos

Social development

Aside from celebrating Filipino craftsmanship, the auction was intended to support the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP).

A private and nonprofit foundation, PBSP is dedicated to promoting the business sector's commitment to social development. Organized in December 1970 by 50 of the country's prominent business leaders, it has since become the nation's largest and most influential business-led social development foundation.

It now has 160 member companies, worked with some 2,500 partner organizations, and provided over P1.6 billion in financial assistance, supporting over 4,400 projects and benefited close to 2.2 million economically-challenged families and households.

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Home items for free

PLAY & Display showcases contemporary home furniture and accessories from trendy places abroad, at reasonable prices. Check out the new arrivals of dining tables and chairs, coffee tables, sofa and bed sets.

The promo Privileges++ runs until Aug. 1. A single purchase worth P5,000-P50,000 earns one point; P51,000-P100,000, two points; and P101,000 and up, three points. Only one transaction per day is allowed.

A-point-card contains 12-point boxes. A completely stamped card wins a Play & Display gift check worth P500 for every customer.

Imported giveaways under the point promo are: three-piece table napkins, pitcher set, salad bowl set, table cloth, cushion cover, vacuum flask, glass canisters, throws.

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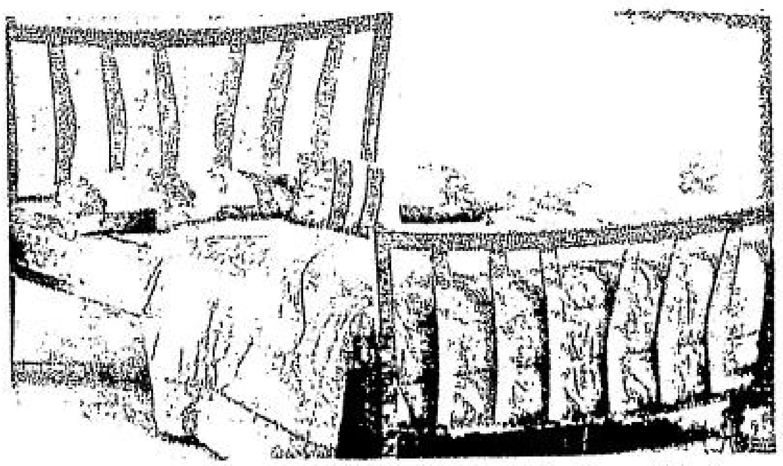

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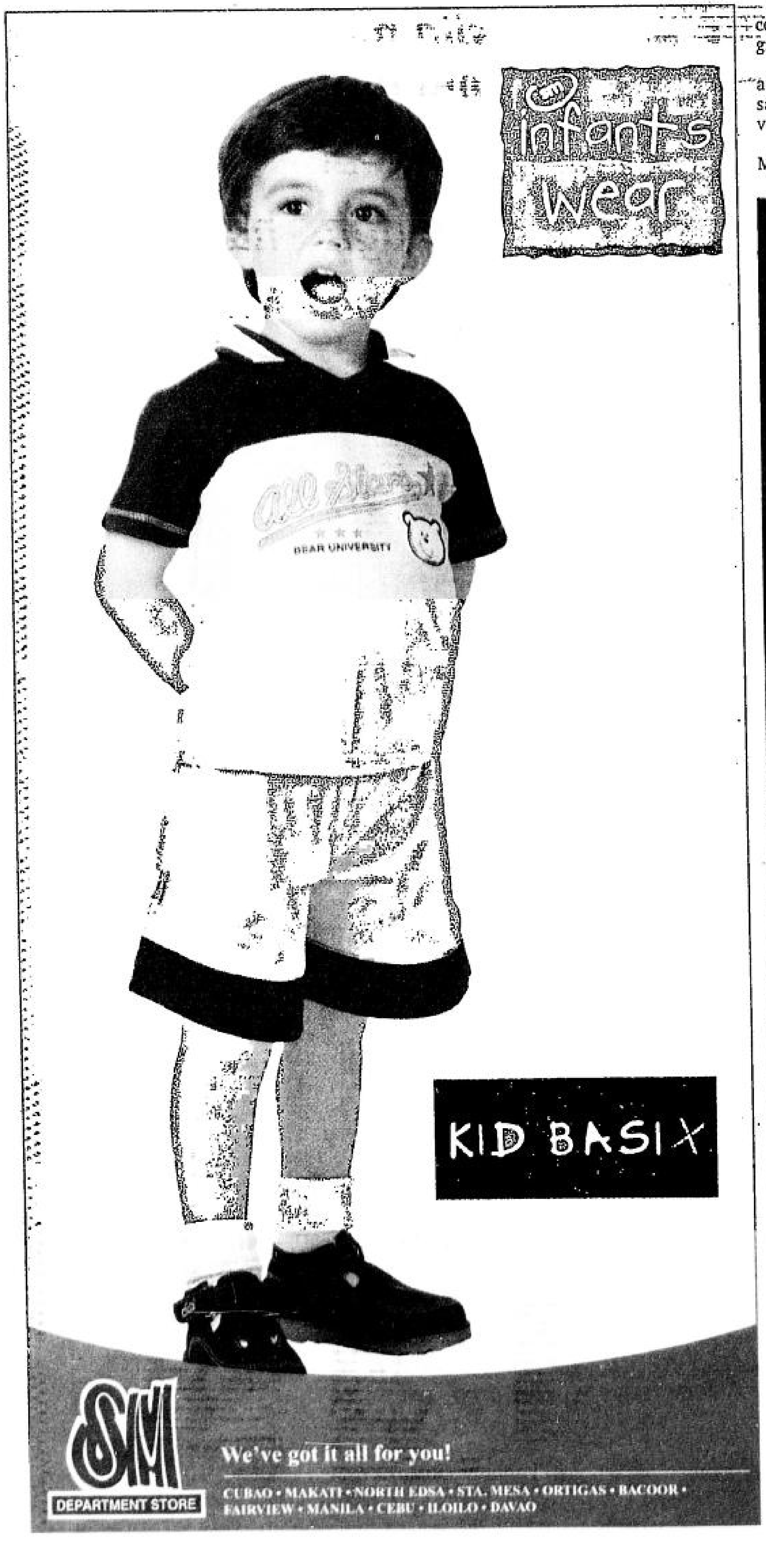

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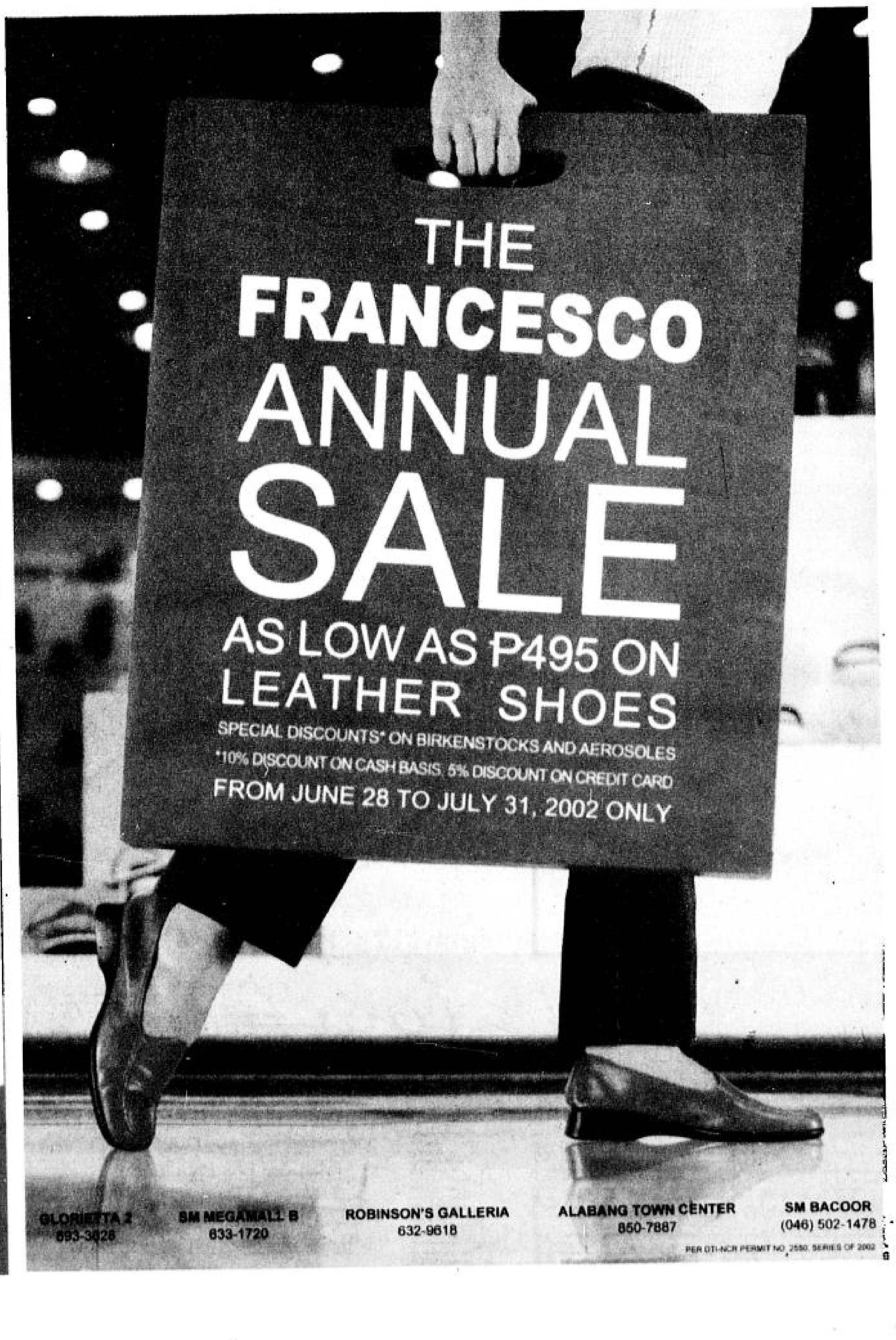

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LIFESTYLE

Home

MARIVIC Jimenez in a field of bromeliads

Housewife's garden pays for its upkeep

A passion for gardening and an eye for trendy plants turned a hobby into a source of pleasure, not to mention profit

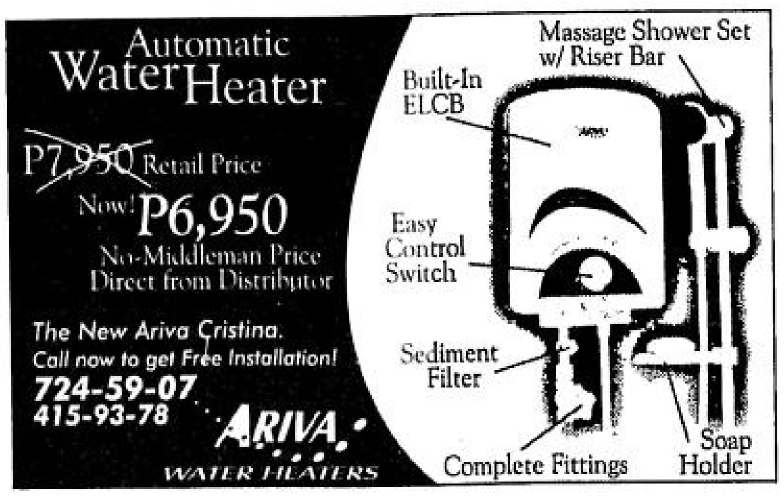
Text by Tita V. Giron
Photos by Joan Bondoc

A PLANT lover's dream was the impression we had when we entered the garden of Marivic Jimenez, chairperson for the garden exhibit of this year's Kadayawan festival in Davao City. It was a merry mix of vintage and trendy plants, rare and popular varieties, and native plants arranged in beautiful pocket landscapes.

A nameless vine on top of a pergola had breathtaking purple flowers. Seeing it for the first time, we asked Jimenez what it was. "We just call it blue vine," she said. The spectacular vine, like other plants in the garden, had no nametag. Absence of plastic tags was the first thing we noticed in the garden, a pleasant change from other gardens we have visited. If there is anything that spoils a beautiful landscape for us, it's the sight of unsightly tags.

Multicolored bromeliads drew our attention immediately. Unblemished and healthy, the "broms" would win hands down in any garden show. As other bromeliad growers know too well, it's a feat keeping all the leaves of these delicate plants in such perfect condition. Across them were Tillandsias, eccentric members of

HOUSEWIFE'S/ p.G2



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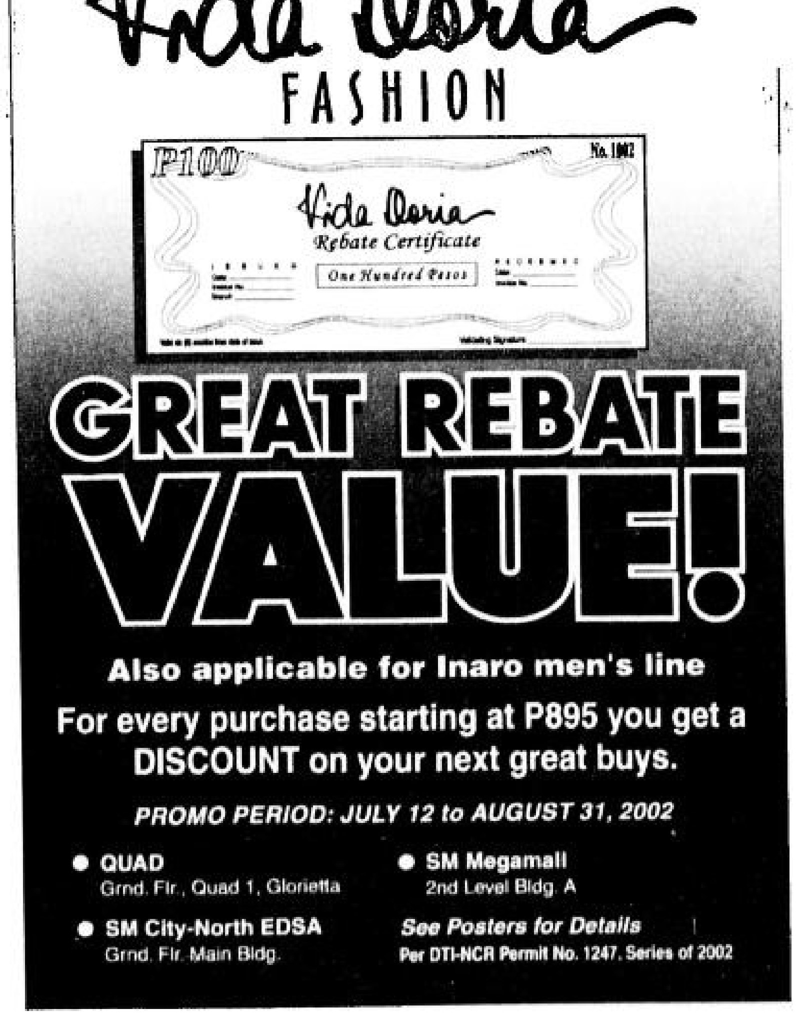

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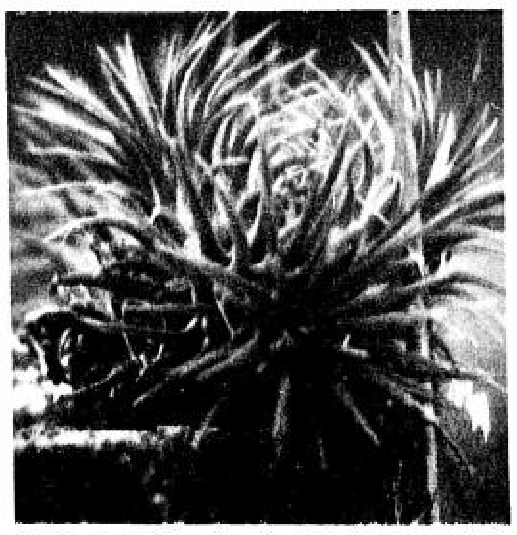

PROLIFIC Tillandsia has many "pups."

MARIVIC Jimenez with her specimen-size Oncidium haematochyllum

Housewife's garden pays for its upkeep

From page G1

the enormous bromeliad family. Unlike most bromeliads that grow in pots or logs, Tillandsias can live in the air on perches like hanging wires or twigs. Adding to their unique features also are their unusual leaves that are wiry or hairy.

As we pushed on deeper into the garden, we had a hard time deciding on where to focus our attention. There were just too many beautiful plants and we didn't want to miss anything. We spotted the Calatheas or prayer plants. They were "awake," as collectors would describe their fully opened leaves. When it is dark, this particular plant closes its leaves like hands in prayer, hence the popular name.

A specimen-size orchid with long sprays of flowers brushed our shoulder along the narrow paths blocked here and there by graceful roots of Dioscorea vine and the Spanish moss hanging like living curtains from branches of trees. Seen from the gazebo across, the sight of the living curtains gave us an impression of some scenes from a sci-fi movie.

RARE fern commands top price in the market.

What other gardeners would no doubt find interesting in the garden were the trendy plants that Jimenez collected from her travels. There were rare variegated hoyas, fern mutations, aglaonema hybrids, variegated dieffenbachia, and rare palms. Gardeners would even be interested to know propagations of the rare plants would soon be available.

Hobby turns into business

"I started gardening 20 years ago when I collected orchids, crotons and ornamental plants that I bought from garden shows. Every time I got a new plant, I would propagate it," she recalled. She also gathered old favorite plants and native species.

"There are so many native plants that people have forgotten. I gather them and multiply them so they won't disappear. The trouble is, I got so bitten by the horticulture bug before I realized there was simply no more space for more plants!

"I was inspired to use my plants in landscaping when I joined the Floriculture Industry of Davao." She said she participated in seminars and workshops, attended garden shows and read gardening publications. In 1999, she went into the business of selling plants and landscaping.

Today, Jimenez has two farms outside the city where she raises plants for landscaping. She also specializes in indoor landscaping for special functions like weddings, anniversaries, induction ceremonies, etc. Her latest works include the indoor garden of Max's Chicken House and the Prego Café at the Gaisano malls.

"My plants earn their keep now. What's more, they have become a source of livelihood for me and my workers," Jimenez said.

For more information on how to start a backyard garden business, write to vicky@dv.webling.com. By the way, Kadayawan Sa Dabaw Festival is Aug. 22 to 25. Highlights of the event include the following: horse fight, tribal dance festival, river festival on Aug. 23; street dancing on Aug. 24; and floral float parade on Aug. 25.

COLORFUL vine has eye-catching flowers.

MULTICOLORED philodendron

Philippine entry to Holland exhibit awarded

THE PHILIPPINE exhibit booth won the bronze award for overall presentation at the Floriade 2002 in Haarlemmermeer, The Netherlands, June 4-12.

Designed by architect Maryann Espina and executed by Francis Gener of King Louis, some of the Philippine plants used were bird's nest ferns, platyceriums, calla lilies, hoyas, dischidias, grammatophyllums, aglaonemas, calatheas, bromeliads and anthuriums.

The Philippine delegation included Philippine Federation of Cutlfowers president Edna Viterbo; members Efren Chatto, Cora Purificacion, Sally Luenberger, Juliet Rodriguez, Cherry Laracas, Val Gumana; and members of the Capiz Cutflower Growers.

Participated in by 29 countries, Floriade 2002 is ongoing till October. Considered the greatest and longest flower and garden show, Floriade is held once in every 10 years in a sparsely populated community consisting of no less than 70 hectares.

Faucet tidbits

DID you know that if you could compute the amount you have spent in repairing and replacing the common substandard metal variety of faucets, it would have been more than enough to buy several high quality faucets?

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Heroes of the forest

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

They shoot forest rangers, don't they?

IT takes years for a tree to grow to full maturity and function as it should—to be part of a watershed, bear fruits or flowers, provide shade, and serve as basic material for a lot of human needs—so it is painful to see one wantonly cut down. Cutting trees may be necessary in many instances, but it should never be overdone or abused.

But there lies the problem of our forests, for when the aim is to make fast profits, there is no waiting for the "proper" time to do it, not even for replanting. To some loggers, the time is "now." So why should they care about setting aside land for, say, industrial tree plantations where trees are grown precisely to be used for commercial purposes? It's so much easier to just turn the saws and the axes loose on them, and bring them straight to the lumber yards or their users.

That's why the DENR enlists forest rangers. Their task is to protect our forest reserves and stop illegal logging. They are, often, people familiar with those forests and so take their duties seriously. It would seem like an easy job at first glance. Much of it entails walking or riding around, monitoring any activity going on and looking at the condition of the tree stands and wildlife in them. But that's not so, as has been proven many times.

Life sentence

The most recent example of what could happen to a forest ranger in the performance of his duties is the case of Raul Zapatos (PDI Lifestyle, 05/10/02). While trying to defend himself against the perpetrators of illegal activities in the area under his jurisdiction, he shot a former mayor (who was killed) and his aide (who was wounded) and was thereby meted a life sentence and sent to the National Bureau of Prisons in Muntinlupa, miles away from his home in Lanao del Norte.

Only in March this year, after serving13 years of his sentence, has his appeal to the Supreme Court for the review and reconsideration of his case been granted. Those who know the circumstances of the case believe he has been sentenced unjustly, and fear that it sends the wrong message to those who, like him, work as guardians of the forest.

Zapatos is only one of those the DENR calls its "environmental heroes." There are at least 10 others between 2001 and the present, some of whom died in the line of duty. Back in 1996, through efforts of a DENR official who wishes to remain low-key, a professionalization program was set up, part of which is Project Trees.

An acronym for Trust Resources to Ensure Environmental Security, Project Trees compensates families and heirs of fallen or wounded rangers and other forest protectors. A park in honor of these heroes was even constructed on the premises of the DENR's main office in Quezon City, with a commemorative marker sculpted by UP Arts students. We are told that the Environment Secretary during a past administration used the area as a dumping ground for some logs whose purpose there, nobody knew.

Fatalities

At any rate, whatever occupies the park today, the honor bestowed on those men who valued their work more than their lives, remains and cannot be erased. The honorees include four fatalities: Oscar M. David, a forest ranger who was killed while attempting to stop illegal logging operations in the Bulacan-Nueva Ecija boundary; Edilmero G. Domingo, scaler, who died from gunshot and stab wounds while undertaking field inspection in Kalatungan, Bukidnon; Levy Cale, engineer, who died from myocardial infarction with complications while conducting a forest line survey in Camiguin; Sandulin M. Pitado, forest ranger, killed in an ambush on his way to conduct land status verification in an area near General Santos City.

Injured were four other forest rangers and a staff member of a marine national park: Federico S. Ventura, forester in Occidental Mindoro, was wounded during an ambush on his way to Sablayan Prison Farm with a platoon of Scout Rangers, to serve a warrant on two prison officials accused of illegal logging in the prison reservation. Antonio O. Prado Jr. of the Apo Reef National Park and Ladislao A. Leido Jr., forest ranger, were both caught in heavy monsoon rain in the China Sea with a stalled motor for three days and nights, while apprehending a foreign vessel with a dubious mission. They were later rescued by a composite team led by the Mamburao Coast Guard.

Raul Sarranz, forest ranger in Gingoog City, sustained third-degree burns due to electrocution from a Napocor line while rescaling confiscated logs from a 10-wheeler. His injury required hospitalization for eight months. Wahid Amella, forester in General Santos City, was wounded during an ambush, which was apparently an attempt to prevent him and his team from conducting land status verification surveys.

Special awards have also been given to Ricardo Calderon, Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (Cenro) for exemplary acts toward his coworkers during an accident in Mabitac, Laguna, and to Zapatos.

This list covers only the period from 2001 to the present. There have been other "heroes" before them. It seems the list grows longer as the task becomes harder. The country needs heroes to inspire us in these difficult times. Let's not look too far, nor let those who bravely guard our forests remain unknown and unsung.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

She's bothered by an ex-boyfriend's vicious remarks

Bzzzz....
BZZZZ!
Bzzzz Bzzz

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I belong to the time when families who could afford it sent their daughters to convent schools and their sons to exclusive boys' schools. In my first job, graduates of those schools gravitated to each other. We went bowling or watched movies as a group. Eventually, of course, pairs went their own way.

After that first job, my regular date and I continued to see each other, and had an intimate physical relationship. When he proposed marriage, I told him we should wait until we earned our master's degree, which both of us were bent on getting in the US. We parted, still committed to each other.

We wrote to each other during our first months in the US. We studied in different states, and then letters became rare and far between, until they stopped. I assumed he had found someone else. He was a good-looking man and attracted many girls. An office mate in my first job swooned over him and made it known to him and to me.

I knew many relatives and friends whose boyfriends professed undying love for them, but found someone else when they went abroad for further studies. I was afraid that it would happen to me and would get hurt, so I opened myself to others while studying in the US. A man, who already had a good job and a promising future because of his high academic attainment, courted me.

When I came home, he gave up his high-paying job and followed me here. However, I waited for my former boyfriend to finish his studies and further training to see if he would come back to me. He came home all right but he never called. I was told he was bitter toward me for having opened myself to another relationship while he remained true to me. So, I finally married the man I met in the US. My first love married a few years later.

Now he has been telling old friends that he was fortunate to have "found out" my "true character" before he could marry me: that I am easy for having fallen for him, and years later, for someone else in the US; that I am "*sugapa sa lalake*," being a convent school-bred girl. He went as far as to say I am the "unfaithful wife" type, that I will fall easily for men I relate with like my male clients, that I am likely to have an affair with one or two of them.

Tita, I have had only two relationships: with him and with the man I married. I know he was badly hurt when I married someone else, and he has been trying to hurt me in return. He is damaging my reputation without basis. He should be stopped. What shall I do?

NINA

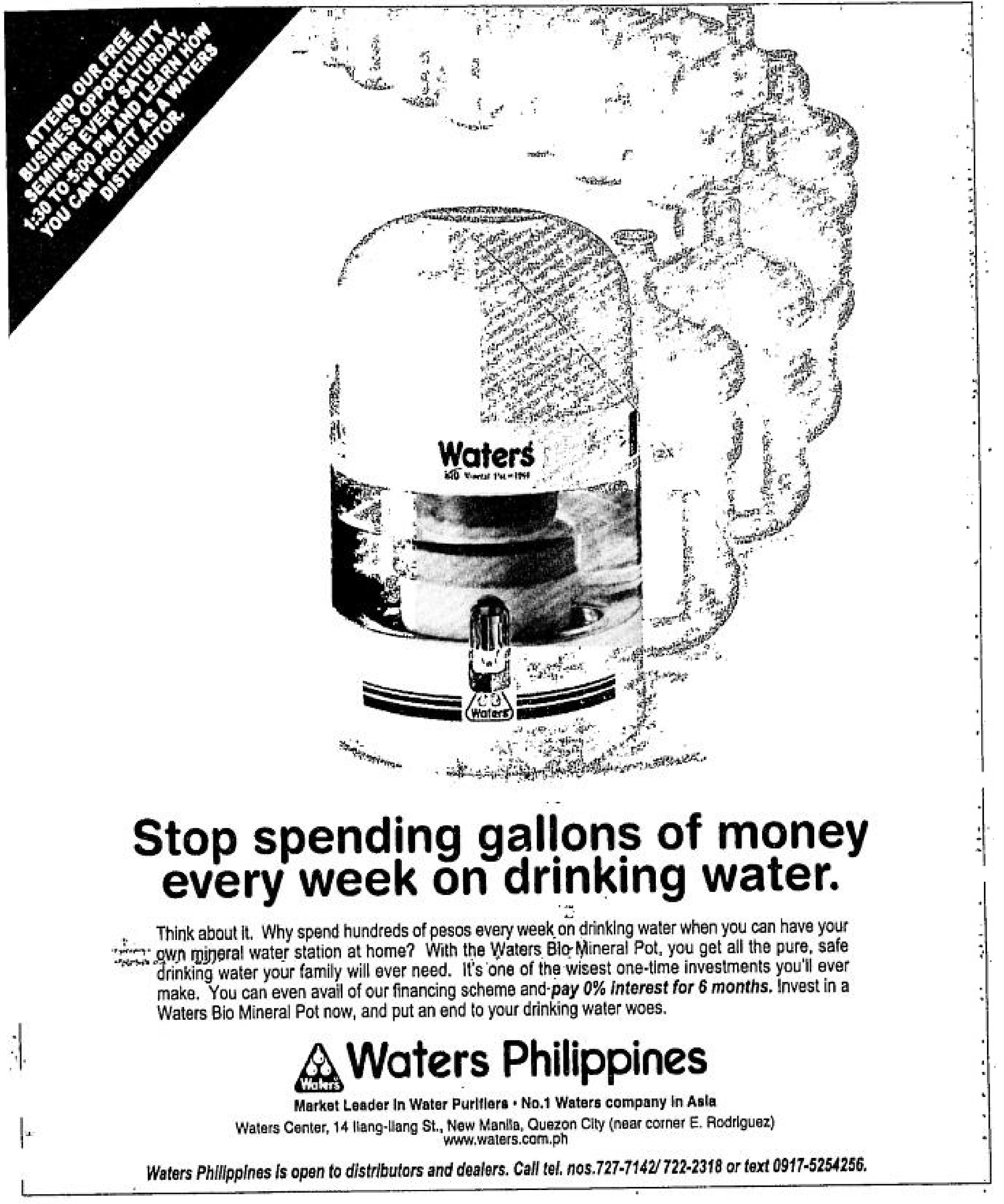
I do not need many words to answer you. Just focus on your life now, as a wife, and when dealing with your male clients, keep your dignity.

While you were in the US, he stopped getting in touch with you, and yet, you still waited for him before you got hitched here. That was loyalty on your part.

Also, your husband gave up his job just to be with you. I have stated this several times: When choosing among several men, take the one who loves you most. It is very clear that you are blessed with a husband who really loves you.

What is important now is to offer each day to the Lord, make sure your husband is happy in your home. Ignore those statements your ex-boyfriend is saying. If you take the trouble of denying what he says to your friends, it will just make his statements get more attention. Live each day to the fullest, leave everything to God. Focus on your life now. Bear in mind you are a lucky wife.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City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combine 1 tsp of rock salt, pepper, sugar and 1 tbsp hot sauce
Combine chopped SABA SQUID, onions, calamansi and flavor blend. Heat oil on sizzling plate or skillet. Stir fry the sisig to desired crispiness. Top with chilis and serve immediately.

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SHANGRI-LA apartments Koi pond

Singapore's other Botanical Gardens

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IN 1967, a hotel group spotted the area on Orange Grove Road in Singapore and thought it would make a perfect spot for a first-class businessman's hotel.

The plot had several bungalows and numerous fruit trees. The natural setting was so tranquil that, rather than clearing the area to make way for an imposing building, the group decided to build it amid the plant life.

The result was a hotel set amid lush gardens that since then became known as Shangri-La, the first in the chain to be given the name. It refers to an imaginary place where life approaches perfection, described in the novel "The Lost Horizon" by English novelist James Hilton.

WATERFALL provides the perfect backdrop for mass of ferns.

The landscaped gardens have been nurtured and cared for through the years such that the 15 acres of grounds today have no less than 110 species of 133,000 plants, flowers and trees, from bougainvillea to exotic herbs.

The expanse of flora earned the gardens of Shangri-La another moniker, "Singapore's other Botanical Gardens." They are home to a myriad wildlife, such as 200 Japanese kois in shades of red and gold in ponds filled by waterfalls.

This is the only hotel in Singapore with such gardens, and one of three in the chain that are set amid lush gardens. The other two are in Hangzhou and Kota Kinabalu.

The hotel offers a garden tour every Friday morning, designed to give guests a quick look into the many exotic plants, flowers and trees. At the main entrance, guests are greeted by majestic royal palms, while huge shady trees canopy the driveway. Tropical shrubs add beauty to the hotel's facade.

The Garden Atrium is an oasis built within the Garden Wing. The small waterfall provides the perfect backdrop for a mass of palms, ferns and exotic plants. The atrium is a favorite venue for night events.

Guests on the pool deck can see wide lawns, tall coconut palms, shrubs such as red ginger, frangipani, heliconia, spider lilies.

The Valley Wing has its own share of tall shady trees and weathered stones, within the manicured gardens at the entrance.

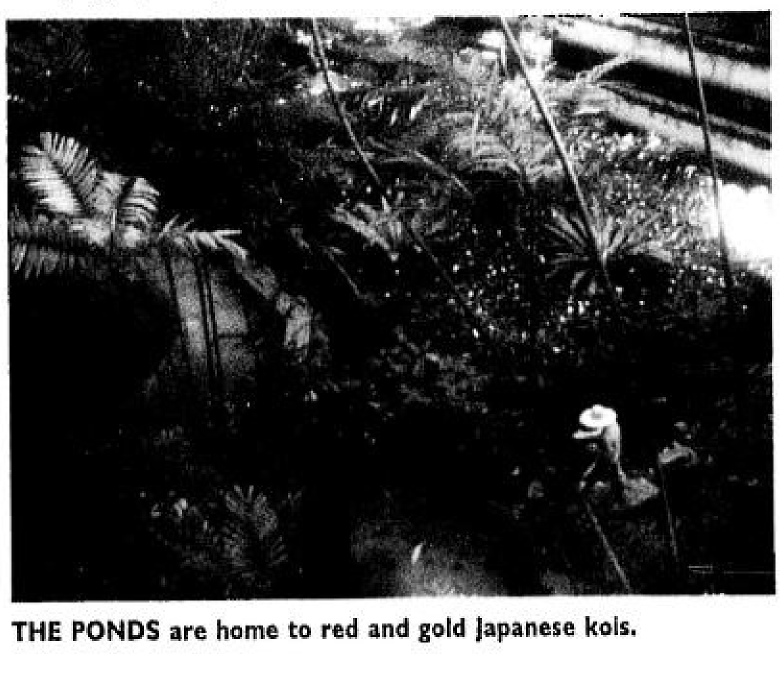
The best varieties are found in the Display Garden. A stroll through this private garden is a sure to thrill any horticulturist or plant enthusiast, with its variety of fruit trees such as durian, mango, cherry, *rambutan, chico*.

Another must-see is the unusual flora collection of blue ginger and lobster claws as well as the 25-year-old African tulip tree. The common and botanical names of the plants and trees are displayed on aluminum plaques for easy identification.

Then there is the Pavilion Garden, where lush pebbled gardens surround the colonial-style pavilion, which was originally a Dutch school. The main showcase here is the Abiu fruit tree, planted by the late country singer and conservationist John Denver.

It takes only half a day to tour the gardens, but the image of such lush beauty can last a lifetime.

EXOTIC plants



THE PONDS are home to red and gold Japanese kois.

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